

Cabinet briefed on IMF talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet was briefed Saturday on the ongoing satisfactory talks between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, also heard a briefing by Tourism Minister Yusef Hammad on the situation in tourism in the country. The minister said that hotels were full and the tourism industry was flourishing. The minister also outlined plans to improve tourism facilities in the Kingdom. The Cabinet endorsed an agreement with the World Bank under which the Bank would provide finance for a project for educational reform. The Council of Ministers also discussed a draft law for standardisation and metrology that aims basically at developing the mechanism of standardisation and metrology to ensure that Jordanian industries meet international standards and compete favourably abroad.

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Arab commentators scorn Shamir proposal Elections will not lead to peace — Khasawneh

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordanian officials and newspapers in several Arab countries Saturday scorned an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and some Middle East newspapers criticised the U.S. for backing it.

"Holding elections in the occupied (territories)... will not lead to true peace," Information Minister Hani Al Khasawneh told Reuters.

"What we have heard so far from Israeli prime minister (Yitzhak Shamir) is too far from the real requirements for peace and ignores the positive stand of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab countries which was met by appreciation and understanding from the European states and the American administration itself," Khasawneh said.

"We share the opinion of PLO and Egypt that holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza and a halt of the intifada will not lead to real peace," he said.

"The Palestinian option for peace is clear. Shamir's plan, his rejection of the idea of an international peace conference, his refusal to recognise the Arab identity of the West Bank and Gaza and his persistence on calling the PLO a terrorist organisation will not contribute to the cause of peace," the minister added.

He said Jordan followed with interest the stand of U.S. President George Bush and Secretary

of State James Baker and that Jordan appreciates their keen interest in peace in the Middle East. "Jordan places big hopes on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Washington and the King's projected talks with President Bush since the meeting is one between the leaders of two friendly nations," he said.

Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), repeated the PLO's rejection of elections unless Israel ends its occupation.

Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper said the plan, announced by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday in Washington after talks with President George Bush, was "a renewed expression of real stagnation."

The plan is "proof of the Israeli leadership's inability to understand the reality of things and the implications of events," it said. Saudi Arabia's Al Jazira daily said Shamir "understands his manoeuvres will be rejected by Arabs."

Other papers also scorned Shamir's plan, under which elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would lead to "autonomy" for the Palestinians living there.

"Israeli military occupation has been identified with such injustices and oppressive practices as would make the idea of free, democratic elections... implausible," an editorial in the English-language Egyptian Mail said.

Al Ahram said "after an unspecified transitional period (of autonomy) 'everything' is negotiable (under the plan) except for two things: withdrawal from the land for peace and having talks with the PLO."

"Why bother, then?" with elections, it asked.

Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam newspaper said: "America knows fully that the adoption of these ideas (elections) will complicate the situation and increase divisions among Arabs."

Bush endorsed Shamir's plan and said it was up to both sides whether to involve the PLO in peacemaking. He also urged Israel to trade land for peace.

Al Fajr in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said: "It seems the U.S. and Israel have agreed to liquidate the uprising and sidestep existing facts, foremost of which is the PLO."

The UAE paper Al Itihad said: "It has become clear that the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the PLO does not oblige Washington to accept a PLO role in the peace process."

"The U.S. has killed its move (to talk to the PLO), which had been hailed throughout the Arab World," it added.

Qatar's Al Arab daily said: "It appears a serious move towards bringing peace to the region is far away until the next Israeli elections. The American support re-



Dr. Hani Khasawneh

flects Washington's backing of everything Tel Aviv's chooses."

Palestine President and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday rejected the Israeli plan, which Shamir has conceded could lead to the election of PLO supporters.

John Rice of the AP adds: Two elected mayors expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities from the West Bank Friday denounced the Shamir proposal.

"As one who was elected in 1976, I would like to remind Mr. Shamir that who were elected are either expelled or dead or dismissed," said Mohammad Milhem, former mayor of Halhoul, who was expelled in 1980.

"The problem is that they didn't understand that we are one people with one leadership (the PLO)," said Abdul Jawad Saleh, mayor of Al Birah until he was expelled in 1973.

"Besides, how could your partner in negotiation be under the threat of your guns?" he added in an interview with the AP.

Milhem was one of numerous mayors elected in 1976 who were expelled or thrown out of office by the Israeli authorities.

Bassam Shakraa, mayor of Nabulus, had his legs blown off by a bomb set by Israeli extremists.

King congratulates Tunisian president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali congratulating him on being elected president of Tunisia in last week's elections. The King wished Ibn Ali success in leading the Tunisian people towards more progress and prosperity. Tunisian voters elected the 54-year-old Ibn Ali as the second president of Tunisia in last Sunday's elections. Ibn Ali, the only candidate, was elected to a five-year term, 18 months after seizing power in a bloodless coup.

Qasem receives ACC endorsement papers

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Saturday received from the Egyptian and North Yemeni ambassadors to Jordan documents providing endorsement of the Egyptian and North Yemeni governments of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which was proclaimed in Baghdad Feb. 16. Under an agreement by the four ACC countries — Jordan and Iraq in addition to North Yemen and Egypt — the four governments will deposit documents of endorsement of the ACC proclamation at the Foreign Ministry of Amman where the ACC permanent headquarters will be established.

General strike, mass curfews herald 17th month of uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip launched a two-day general strike Saturday to commemorate the death of their war hero and mark the start of the 17th month of uprising against Israeli occupation.

Throughout the occupied territories, shops were shuttered and transportation came to a standstill. Streets in the villages and cities were dominated by hundreds of protesters who raised Palestinian flags and built improvised barricades.

The Israeli army clamped or extended curfews on most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps, forcing at least 215,000 Arabs — about one-third of the total Gaza population — to stay inside their houses.

In Rafah and Khan Yunis refugee camps, protesters violated curfews and clashed with Israeli army troops, reports said.

Reports said soldiers in the West Bank town of Jenin shot and wounded three Palestinian teenagers. One of them, Maher Najjar Shalbak, 14, was taken to hospital in serious condition with a head wound.

Palestinian sources said soldiers shot a 14-year-old during stone-throwing demonstrations in Bethlehem.

Protesters also clashed with troops in the Gaza Strip at Khan Yunis and Rafah, near the Egyptian border. Hospitals said a 13-year-old and a 17-year-old were wounded by army fire in Khan Yunis and a 19-year-old was shot in Rafah.

Palestinians said the two-day strike to mark the start of the 17th month of the uprising was being widely observed on its first day, which coincided with the



Israeli troops prevent a demonstration in the occupied West Bank.

second day of Ramadan.

At least 422 Palestinians have been killed since the revolt erupted Dec. 9, 1987. Several violent confrontations were reported Saturday in the occupied West Bank.

In Tulikarem, troops forced residents to paint over nationalist slogans on house walls and remove Palestinian flags from rooftops and electricity poles, report said.

An Israeli photographer said hundreds of Palestinians blocked entrances to Halhul and Beit Umar, erecting barricades and waving Palestinian flags. "The army dispersed them within two minutes," he said.

The general strike Saturday

and Sunday was called by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising to mark an anniversary of the death of Abdul-Qader Hussein, a member of a prominent Jerusalem family and a Palestinian war hero.

Husseini, who commanded fighters in the Jerusalem area, was killed in the battle for the Qastel Hill in April 1948. A leaflet distributed by the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement urged Palestinians to welcome Ramadan by escalating their uprising.

On Friday, thousands of Palestinians marked the first day of Ramadan with protests outside Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem after midday prayers attended by about 25,000 worshippers.

At least five policemen, three Arabs and several journalists were hurt in the stone-throwing protest. At least 37 Arabs were arrested.

The Islamic Jihad group distributed leaflets in the Gaza Strip calling on Druze Arabs serving in the paramilitary border police to quit and join the Palestinian revolt.

Many Israeli Druze serve in the border police.

Gaza residents said the Jihad leaflet was the group's first direct appeal to Israelis. They quoted it as telling the Druze that Israel was "trying to use you for the dirtiest missions."



A Lebanese woman holding her three-day-old baby watches her other children filling bags with sand to protect their house from shells in Beirut.

Shelling defies Beirut truce

BEIRUT (R) — The shattered city of Beirut was relatively calm Saturday apart from occasional shelling but few residents pinned hopes for long-term peace on a tenuous three-day-old ceasefire.

"Ceasefires are old jokes in Lebanon. There have been hundreds of them already but the war has continued for the past 14 years," said Rima Haddad, a resident of east Beirut.

People in the Christian heartland closed their businesses early after a few shells slammed into Beirut port and the coastal highway linking the eastern sector of the divided capital to the north. There were no reports of casualties.

Traffic was light, with drivers fearful that artillery duels would

resume across the "green line" divide without warning.

Some people took advantage of the truce called by Arab League mediators to sandbag their homes or stockpile food.

Tens of thousands have fled their homes in both east and west Beirut for relatively safer areas after 24 days of bombardments, some of the worst since the civil war started in 1975.

Thousands of families left west Beirut for villages in South Lebanon, while many rich families sailed to Cyprus or other European countries.

"It seems the goal behind the daily morning shelling is to keep a life paralysed in our areas," said a politician.

He said Lebanon's political cri-

sis remained unresolved. "The rival parties hold on to their demands and the distance to real peace is still remote."

At least 150 people have been killed and 569 wounded since army commander Michel Aoun, vying with a civilian government for recognition, began a blockade of militia-run ports to try to extend his authority outside Christian areas.

Aoun has also vowed to drive the estimated 25,000 Syrian troops from the country.

Arab League mediators are trying to end the constitutional impasse which left Lebanon with no president, two governments, a toothless parliament and an army split on sectarian lines.

France, which governed both

Lebanon and Syria between the world wars, is sending a hospital ship and an oil tanker carrying relief supplies to Beirut. Aoun has said he hopes for military aid from Paris.

French President Francois Mitterrand said Thursday the lives of Christians were being threatened. But Lebanese Socialist leader Walid Junblatt told France Saturday to keep out of its country's politics, saying political or military intervention would put 15 million Christians in the Middle East at risk (see page 2).

Politicians said the ceasefire would hold only if Aoun, who commands 15,000 mainly Christian troops, ended his blockade of the illegal ports, lifelines for the rival militias.

signs of strain. One problem is DP participation in the segregated chambers of parliament reserved for coloured (mixed-race) and Indian members. The DP has two members in the Indians' chamber.

The United Democratic Front (UDF), a coalition of mainly black anti-apartheid groups, has boycotted the Indian and coloured houses as sham reforms.

"It is our duty to point out that participation in the tricameral parliament is totally unacceptable," the UDF said in a statement this week.

60 feared killed in Soviet sub fire

OLSO (R) — At least 60 Soviet sailors are feared dead after their nuclear-powered submarine caught fire, exploded and sank in the Arctic, Norwegian Television reported Saturday.

It quoted Norway's Defence Ministry for the death toll more than 24 hours after the submarine went down about 100 miles south of Bear Island deep inside the Arctic Circle.

Defence Ministry spokesman Erik Senstad told Reuters: "There is much to indicate that the number of dead was higher than first thought — though we do not have an exact figure."

Earlier Western estimates put the number of known dead at 12 and about 50 missing.

Senstad said Soviet authorities had supplied additional information about the disaster and confirmed that the vessel was a Mike class submarine, the only one of its type and used to test advanced weapons systems.

"We know now that there was a powerful explosion on board after the fire spread on and the vessel began to list," he added.

The submarine would normally carry a crew of 95 and a Defence Ministry statement said it seemed that between 40 and 50 people appeared to have escaped before it sank in 1,500 metres of water.

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Thousands demonstrate in Tbilisi

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of demonstrators shouting nationalist slogans massed in Tbilisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia, for the second straight day Saturday but tanks pulled out of the city centre and there was little tension, Georgian journalists reported.

A journalist at the Georgian news agency Gruzinform, talking by telephone from Tbilisi, said speakers were addressing about 20,000 people gathered in front of the government and Communist Party headquarters.

About 30 major industrial plants remained on strike, including the huge Dnipro aircraft engine plant, and virtually all schools in the city were closed, she said.

In a wave of strikes and demonstrations Friday, about 100,000 people massed on the embankment of the Kura River bisecting the city to support 100 people staging a hunger strike to

press nationalist demands.

But unlike Friday's protest, tanks and other armoured vehicles made only a token appearance in the city centre. The few policemen in attendance made no attempt to intervene.

"The tanks moved about the embankment early in the morning, but now they're standing idle some distance from the city centre," the journalist said. "There are no armoured vehicles now near the meeting."

One eyewitness said the tanks pulled away after demonstrators had poured out to the city's main thoroughfare, Rustaveli Prospekt, to block their way.

Some demonstrators at the gatherings have called for the secession of Georgia from the Soviet Union.

Others have urged the complete integration into the Transcaucasian Republic of Abkhazia, an autonomous area on the Black

Sea coast. Demands by Abkhazians to secede from Georgia and create their own republic have sparked tension throughout the region in recent weeks.

Georgians fiercely oppose the demands of the Abkhazians, who constitute a minority even in their own region.

The Georgian Communist Party leadership has also denounced the demands and this week dismissed the party chief in Abkhazia, Boris Adleyba, who backed demands for secession.

One Georgian group has organised a demonstration Sunday for the Abkhaz town of Gagra, with up to 5,000 demonstrators expected to be brought in by bus from other parts of Georgia.

Residents in the picturesque town fear clashes and several Georgian schools and kindergartens have been closed after receiving anonymous threats.

Walesa urges opposition to contest polls

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa called on the opposition Saturday to build on the "beautiful victory" in talks with communist leaders by running in Poland's first free elections in 40 years.

Walesa asked the citizens' committee of 150 union activists and opposition members to map out a strategy for the June polls which, under a deal with the government, will give them the right to enter parliament.

Liberalised elections were among a series of radical reforms agreed in eight-week negotiations between the government and opposition and approved by the Sejm (parliament) Friday.

The changes also pave the way for Solidarity's legalisation after a seven-year ban.

"I thank you for this beautiful political and propaganda vic-

tory," Walesa told the committee, which held its meeting in a Warsaw church building.

"I'd like to ask you to try to take advantage of this victory so that we decide together how to enter the open fields of democracy and freedom," he said.

The reforms began a process of dismantling the Communist Party's power monopoly and putting Poland on the road to parliamentary democracy.

Other measures include the creation of a state presidency and easier rules on the formation of clubs and associations.

Walesa asked the citizens' committee, of which he is the chairman, to organise the election campaign and said the Solidarity-led opposition should make the most of its opportunity in the vote.

"It would be very bad if we

lost. We would then have limited possibilities and limited freedom. Nobody else can achieve this for us," he said.

Walesa's comments followed an appeal to union members Friday by Solidarity's national executive commission (KKW) to take part in the elections.

Under the liberalised election laws, the opposition will be allowed to compete for 35 per cent of the 460 seats in the Sejm, while elections to a new 100-seat senate (upper house) will be fully democratic — for the first time since the communists took power.

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Junblatt warns France to keep out of Lebanon

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt told France Saturday to keep out of Lebanese politics or face unpredictable consequences.

Addressing a news conference in Damascus, he warned that French political or military intervention would put at risk 15 million Christians in the Middle East.

"What is happening in Lebanon is an internal conflict which requires political reform and the overthrow of the military... we warn France not to be dragged into a political and military adventure in Lebanon," Junblatt said.

France, which ruled Syria and Lebanon under a League of Nations mandate between the two world wars, has sent two ships with medicines, food and oil to Lebanon as humanitarian aid for civilians after fierce artillery bombardments.

A French envoy visited Beirut this week to back up an Arab League ceasefire call and assess Lebanon's aid needs.

Syrian troops and their allies and forces loyal to army chief Michel Aoun generally adhered to the three-day-old Arab League ceasefire Saturday.

More than 150 people were killed and over 500 wounded in more than three weeks of artillery battles which devastated Beirut in some of the bitterest fighting in Lebanon's 14-year civil war.

Junblatt accused France of sup-

porting Aoun, who heads an interim military administration trying for power with a civilian cabinet.

"French political or military intervention, God forbid, would complicate the situation in Lebanon and endanger more than 15 million Christians living in the Middle East... it would mean a disaster for the whole region... it would be a very risky game," he said.

Junblatt dismissed a call by Major-General Aoun for a dialogue with rival forces, saying that the army chief was not sincere.

"We as national forces want dialogue with Christian democratic forces, but we could never have dialogue with those who were behind the disaster (of the last three weeks), namely Aoun and his clique. This is impossible. This clique should be overthrown," he said.

Syria has also demanded Aoun's resignation. He was named to run an interim government by outgoing President Amin Gemayel after parliament failed to elect a new head of state.

The artillery battles erupted March 14 after Aoun sought to impose his control outside the Christian enclave by blockading illegal ports which supplied Lebanon's militias with much of their funds.

Junblatt said Lebanon needed a political solution to its crisis with radical reforms and the introduction of a new political system.

"... we do not want war. We want peace. We want a new

political regime," Junblatt said.

U.S. welcomes Aoun call

The United States Friday praised a call by Aoun for political reform, saying it would open the way to resolving some of the fundamental problems tearing Lebanon apart.

The comments appeared to indicate a State Department tilt towards the Aoun regime.

It was the first time in the latest round of artillery duels that the State Department has departed from its language of neutrality.

Aoun Thursday called for a conference between the warring sides to discuss power-sharing between Christians and Muslims.

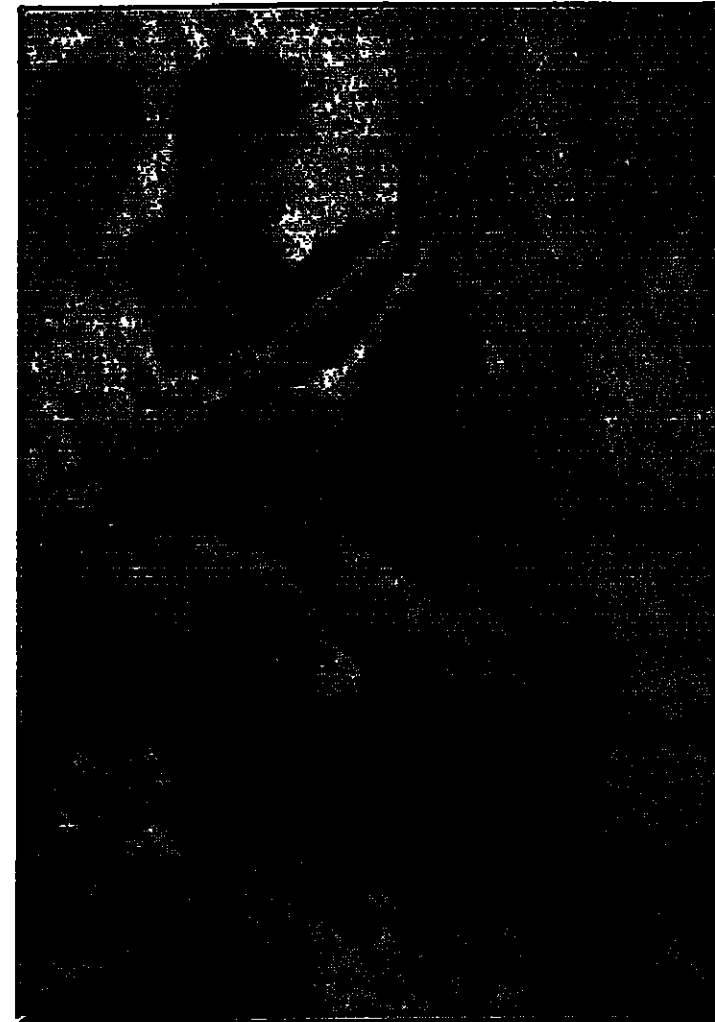
"We have achieved equality in humiliation for 14 years," Aoun said. "We have to acquire equality today in responsibility, liberation, dignity and partnership."

"We have to be partners in making our destiny, because this partnership alone is bound to realise justice, equality and equal opportunities in a full national sense," he said.

Aoun said the Lebanese will have to pay much more dearly if they delay in achieving unity, security, dignity, stability and reconstruction of their homeland.

"We welcome the commitment that General Aoun made," said the State Department. "We applaud his recognition that all Lebanese have the right to security, liberty, and dignity."

Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, said Aoun's call is "another step down the road" to a settlement in Lebanon.



Demonstrators hold Lebanese flags during a meeting in front of the Lebanese embassy in Paris protesting at the latest outbreak of violence in Beirut.

non. But he conceded that "I can't say that we can be optimistic about the situation. I think this shows a path to resolving some of the fundamental problems that are there, and that's why we support it."

Boucher said the United States does not have "any precise formula that we're trying to impose now."

The important thing is for the sides to stop fighting and start talking, he said.

Boucher reiterated repeated State Department calls of recent weeks for all sides, "foreign and domestic," to respect the ceasefire mediated by the Arab League.

Palestinians reject Shamir's election call as stalling tactic

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians have made clear that a U.S.-backed Israeli call for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would not stop the uprising against Israeli occupation.

Demonstrations in Jerusalem and the West Bank followed hard on the heels of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's meeting with U.S. President George Bush Thursday. The protests signalled that Palestinians here believe the U.S. pledge to work on the election idea was inadequate.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, speaking in the Congo, attacked Shamir's proposal as "inappropriate, as usual" and vowed the uprising would continue "until victory."

Some influential Palestinians in the occupied territories indicated elections might be possible if certain conditions were met, such as U.N. supervision and a withdrawal of Israeli troops. Their comments appeared to give the U.S. government some leeway to explore the idea.

"The PLO doesn't even have to openly agree to the idea. The PLO just has to let the process start. We just need an atmosphere that will let things take off," said an Israeli official who demanded anonymity.

Shamir's plan is to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose Palestinian representatives to talk with Israel about establishing "autonomy" as an interim arrangement. Talks on the ultimate disposition of the land would be left until later.

But many Palestinians said they feared he sought only an arrangement to halt the uprising and was not sincere about seeking a long-term settlement.

"The interim solution will become a permanent solution. We have no trust in the Israeli side on this matter," said Nablus businessman Said Kana'an.

Nablus Jabari, chairman of the now-closed Hebron University in the West Bank, said the PLO would have to authorise an international body to supervise the balloting and elections would have to be part of a larger settlement.

"I could not agree to elections if it is only elections. It must be part of a package to solve the Palestinian problem," said Jabari, who spent 65 days in jail without trial for resistance activities during the uprising.

Palestinians interviewed Friday said Israel would have to accept giving up land it seized in the 1967 Middle East war and end the military occupation over the 1.7 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Shamir has to announce that he accepts the principle of territory for peace," said Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij.

Other Palestinians ruled out Shamir's latest proposal.

"No and a thousand times no to the elections and even to the dialogue with Israelis under occupation," said Safwan Khatib of Jerusalem, a surgeon.

There was no sign of a letup in the 16-month-old intifada.

In Jerusalem, for example, several thousand Palestinians clashed with police, burning an Israeli flag and shouting "Islamic and Arab Palestine" outside the Al Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites.

"I think the intifada (uprising) will continue until Shamir comes up with a better proposal," said Hanna Simora, editor of the daily Al Fajr newspaper.

An Israeli official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity said Shamir's proposal to President Bush did not link elections to the return of calm to the West Bank and Gaza.

The official said Israel hoped that international reaction would be favourable to the election idea. "If international public opinion accepts, I think the Palestinians would not have any time rejecting it," he said.

The liberal daily Haaretz and the conservative Maariv newspapers concurred Shamir had only won a "time out." Iaretz said "The impression is that the Bush administration is not going to let Shamir off the hook soon."

Finance Minister Shimon Peres, head of the Labour Party and Shamir's rival in the coalition government, expressed scepticism about Shamir's plan. "I still (don't see) a second stage for negotiations, and the question is whether we can find Palestinian representatives," he was quoted as saying by the Itim news agency.

Alex Bligh, Shamir's Arab affairs adviser, said on Israel's Arabic TV that Shamir and the Palestinians would engage in a tug-of-war to see who would make the least "concessions" and that initial rejections were to be expected.

"In the coming weeks... we will see attempts by all sides to give the least and get the most. Perhaps by the end of spring or the beginning of summer, it will be possible to get from everyone enough centimetres of movement to start the process," he said.

Afghan missile causes casualties in Pakistan

KABUL (R) — A long-range Afghan missile missed a Mujahadeen rebel target and slammed into Pakistani territory, causing casualties, a government spokesman said Saturday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Amani said the Scud-B missile hit a training camp of Pakistani security forces and Afghan Mujahadeen rebels. The Soviet-made missile was aimed at a Mujahadeen camp near Jalalabad on the Afghan side of the border.

Amani said the incident, the first time that an Afghan long-range missile had hit Pakistani territory, was a mistake.

He said it happened this week but gave no exact date.

Afghanistan has repeatedly accused Pakistan of sheltering and arming rebels battling to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

The Soviet missile had a range of 380 kilometres.

In Islamabad, Pakistan said it had protested to Afghanistan against what it called a long-range rocket attack on a border post, calling it a provocation that could have serious consequences.

A Foreign Ministry statement said a Soviet-supplied Scud missile fired by Afghan forces early Friday extensively damaged some government buildings and private property at Torkham Post in the Khyber Pass. It did not mention casualties.

A strong protest was handed to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad and a complaint made to United Nations officials, it added.

Amani said the missile had "caused material damage and casualties."

Jalalabad has been the scene of heavy fighting between Afghan government forces and an alliance of rebels based in Pakistan.

The Afghan diplomat was told that "the responsibility of the serious consequences arising from such an attack would rest

entirely with the Kabul regime," Saturday's statement said. It reported no casualties.

The incident was the second of its kind in the area within nine days. But in the previous incident March 29, witnesses said a Scud missile fell within Afghan territory a few hundred metres from Torkham killing at least 10 people.

Local newspapers said the latest rocket destroyed a Pakistani post office and two other buildings at the Torkham border complex.

Afghan rebels across the border are in the midst of the five-week-old offensive against Jalalabad.

Pakistan denies Afghan charges that its troops are fighting alongside the Western-backed rebels in the battle for Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province.

The rebels launched an offensive March 5, aiming to capture Jalalabad and set up their government-in-exile in the provincial capital.

Government forces repulsed the offensive, forcing a military stalemate with the two sides now fighting with long-range artillery and rockets.

Asked whether Kabul intended to apologise to Pakistan, Amani said: "The Pakistanis have been engaged in an aggression against us without offering any apology, why should we apologise to them?"

Najibullah said March 20 that Pakistan had to weigh up the consequences of its support for the Mujahadeen rebels. He did not rule out military action against Pakistan.

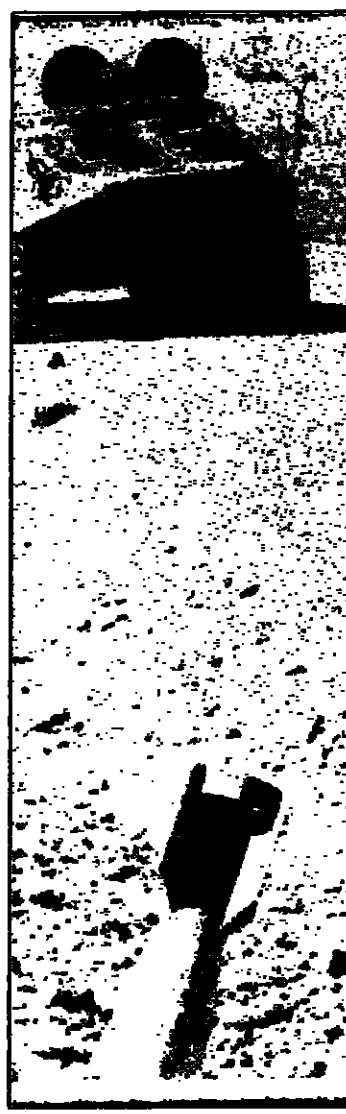
Amani reported fresh fighting around Jalalabad and in other areas, saying rebel attacks had killed at least seven civilians.

He also said there had been clashes between Afghan refugees wishing to return from Pakistan and Pakistani security forces in recent weeks.

He said Pakistani troops had

killed at least 15 Afghan refugees in the clashes.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan or helping the rebels militarily.



An unexploded rocket fired by Afghan government soldiers lies embedded in sand near Jalalabad.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Moscow: Shamir plan unworkable

LONDON (R) — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Saturday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza was unworkable. "It's a stillborn child, a stillborn idea," Gerasimov said on Britain's Channel Four television. "It cannot work because you cannot really solve the Palestinian problem without the PLO." Shamir unveiled his election plan Thursday, in talks with President Bush in Washington, as a way to select a Palestinian delegation to negotiate an interim period of self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Gerasimov, in Britain after a visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said Palestinians could only view the election proposal as "a recipe for quinquina." He also said Jewish settlement of the occupied territories, was a timebomb.

Libya rejects criticism over bombers

NICOSIA (R) — Libya has rejected foreign criticism over its purchase of Soviet bombers, saying colonialist forces were spreading lies. A political commentary distributed by the official news agency JANA said that "Libya warns against any attempted aggression and will confront it with determination and resoluteness. It also reserves its right to self-defence." The agency did not comment explicitly on East-West arguments over the past few days whether Libya has acquired bombers that could attack Israel. The Soviet Union says it sent kits to build six bombers with a top range of 500 kilometres. The United States says Libya is getting up to 15 SU-24Ds jets which, even without mid-air refuelling, could reach Israel 1,100 kilometres away. Friday's JANA commentary said a campaign of lies was being mounted on the pretext that Libya had acquired sophisticated weapons. It said Libya was eager for peace but "will not give in to threats from any power."

Israeli women clash in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Ultra-orthodox women punched and bit members of a progressive women's prayer group at Jerusalem's western wall Friday, a member of the group said. She said five women were injured in the assault, the second attack in two days on women's groups at the wall. Ultra-orthodox Jews oppose the women's prayer groups because they consider the sound of a woman's singing voice seductive. They also say they go against Jewish tradition that men and women pray separately and individually. Barbara Wachs, who led the Friday prayers, said at least four ultra-orthodox women attacked her group of 11, which included women from all streams of Judaism. "I was pulling her (an attacker) off one of the women and she turned around and bit me. I yelled she bit me" and she turned around and hit me in the eye," Wachs said. The five injured women filed complaints, saying policemen had watched the attacks but did nothing to stop them. After the incident, police arrested two of the attackers.

Rebels report large anti-Khomeini demonstrations, protests, clashes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iranian opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, has reported "extensive demonstrations and clashes" between people and Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the cities of Najaf-Abad, Yazdanshahr, Amir-Abad and the town of Emam in central Iran.

"Protest demonstrations in Najaf-Abad, the hometown of (Iranian revolutionary leader) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's deposed successor, Hossein-Ali Montazeri, which began as scattered clashes in different parts of the city Sunday, April 2, reached a peak on April 4 and 5, as local residents joined the protests en masse," according to a Mujahadeen statement telexed to the Jordan Times late Friday.

"Clashes broke out throughout the city Tuesday morning and the Khomeini regime brought in 5000 guards from the Isfahan Guards Corps to confront the people," it said. As clashes continued, protesters disarmed some of the guards and returned the guards' fire. They chanted "Down with Khomeini" and set fire to the guards corps HQ, the governor's

office and the office of Mullah Izadi, the Friday prayers leader.

A number of guards and some civilians died in the clashes, it said. The many wounded were transferred to Montazeri Hospital in Najaf-Abad and also to several hospitals in Isfahan, including Issa Ben Maryam, Sadoughi (run by the guards corps), Amin and Kashani hospitals, it added.

According to the statement, Tuesday evening, the guards raided people's homes, making hundreds of arrests. "Despite the protests of nurses and medical staff in Issa Ben Maryam and Kashani Hospitals, the wounded were forcefully taken away by the guards," it said.

In Najaf-Abad, a nightly curfew has been imposed and checkpoints have been set up at all entrances into the city. Any movement to or from the city is strictly controlled, it added.

Clashes also broke out in Yazdanshahr, Amir-Abad and the town of Emam, which lie near Isfahan and Najaf-Abad, according to the statement, which quoted local reports.

A report prepared by the guards corps command blamed the Mujahadeen for starting and spreading the clashes and added that Montazeri's issue was only a pretext, particularly as pleas by Mullah Dori-Najafabadi, Montazeri's representative, calling for an end to demonstrations and clashes, went unheeded by the people, it concluded.

Executions

In another statement, the Mujahadeen said the Khomeini regime has been executing political prisoners and identifying the victims as drug traffickers for the past few months. In Tehran alone, many cases have been reported, it said. Four Mujahadeen political prisoners, including a physician, were hanged in Sadeqieh Square in January. In February, seven political prisoners were hanged at Molavi junction, five in Piroozi Square, three in Haftchegar district, three in Shahpour Square and one in Hashemi Square. All were supporters of the Mujahadeen, the statement said.

Rushdie sentence will be carried out — Khomeini

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khomeini Saturday told Iran's ambassadors to the 12 European Community (EC) nations that a death sentence against British novelist Salman Rushdie would be carried out, state-run Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's "fatwa (religious decree) against the apostate writer... is a decree based on Sharia, and is irrevocable."

"Without any equivocation he (Rushdie) is sentenced to death, because he has insulted the beliefs of more than one billion Muslims worldwide," Khomeini said.

Khomeini ordered Feb. 14 that Rushdie be sought out and killed for defaming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Fourteen Western nations including Britain and its EC partners recalled their ambassadors from Tehran to protest the decree.

Iran called back its envoys from community countries in retaliation and later severed ties with Britain, accusing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of conspiring against Islam.

All Khomeini

The European Community nations later agreed that each country would decide of its own accord on returning their envoys to Tehran.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:30	Koran
14:55	Children programmes
15:15	Cooking programme
15:30	Arabic series
17:20	Health programmes
18:00	Religious programme
18:20	Ramadan contest
18:35	Arabic series
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Religious series
22:25	Special programme on Ramadan
23:00	News in Arabic
23:15	Varieties
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Cooking
18:30	L'Ecole des Femmes
19:00	News in French
19:15	A documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Stranger
21:10	Captain James Cook
22:00	News in English
22:20	A Taste for Death
PRAYER TIMES	
03:51	Fajr
05:10	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:37	Dhuhr
15:12	Asr
18:04	Maghreb

CHURCHES	
19:24	St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switfish, Tel. 810740
	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
	St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637460
	De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
	Terranova Church Tel. 622366
	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
	Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
	Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
	Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822805
	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
A drop in temperatures will occur with the appearance of clouds at different altitudes and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman	Min./max. temp. 14 / 26
Aqaba	18 / 33
Deir el Zor	13 / 28
Jordan Valley	13 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid	677436
Dr. Yabris Abdul Rahim	736074
Dr. Ahmad Othman	786384
Dr. Mahmud Al Awar	741391
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nisrookh pharmacy	626372
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ziyad Al A'raj	(-)
--------------------	-----

Al Sharana' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubashir Hijawi	(-)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	62209053
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	65639091
Public Security Department	
	656000 / 685119
Hotel Complaints	656590
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	12
Overseas Calls	17
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Center	813813/3
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281A
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	624411
Jabal Amman Maternity	64236
Malthas, J. Amman	63614
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171A
Shmeisani Hospital	66913
University Hospital	94584A
Al-Munasher Hospital	667221A
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164A
Iskahan, Al-Madharesh	777015/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/2
Azmy, Marka	891611/2
Queen Alia Hospital	60220A/3
Amal Hospital	67415

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)98332
Zarqa Medical Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)98073

IRBID:



Lawzi receives French envoy

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi received in his office Saturday French Ambassador in Amman Patrick Lederer. Lederer, whose tour of duty here has now ended, discussed with Lawzi general topics related to relations between France and Jordan (Petra photo).

Zakat Fund spends JD 902,793 in 1988

AMMAN (Petra) — The Zakat (alms) Fund spent an amount of JD 902,793 last year, in the form of recurrent aid to needy families in Jordan, in addition to an assistance of JD 466,520 to West Bank students, attending the Jordanian universities, Zakat Fund Director General Sheikh Mohammad Shakra said Saturday.

At a press conference held at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday, Sheikh Shakra pointed out that the Fund last year allocated JD 1,178,288 to the families of the martyrs in the occupied West Bank in addition to an allocation of JD 466,520 for students from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, who, as a result of the uprising, lost their funding sources in the occupied territories.

Shakra also said that the Fund granted JD 31,550 to 260 needy families in the form of regular monthly assistance, in addition to emergency cash assistance totalling JD 23,302 to 300 persons and JD 4,475 as cash assistance to 200 students from Jordan.

On the Fund's assistance to the West Bank, Shakra pointed out that some 875 students from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip benefitted from the Fund's assistance last year.

The Fund also paid JD 220,850 in aid to 306 families in the occupied territories, in addition to JD 368,083 paid to needy people in the various govern-

rates and districts throughout the country.

Shakra noted that the Fund's resources are totally dependent on those of the Ministry of Awqaf and that the Fund supervises the work of 45 Zakat committees in Jordan and 20 committees in the West Bank.

Shakra said the Fund's revenues last month totalled JD 110,228, of which JD 2,305 were paid as monthly assistance to 152 needy families, JD 370 as emergency aid, and JD 12,487 as conditional assistance to 855 families.

He noted that emergency assistance is given to some needy people as a lump sum payable once in accordance with the conditions set by the donors.

However, Shakra noted any donor has the right, in accordance with the Zakat Law, to name the beneficiary or beneficiaries to benefit from his alms and the Zakat Fund should respect his conditions by giving the sum donated to the person or persons mentioned by name.

He added that the Fund retains only 10 per cent of the amount to be paid to other beneficiaries.

On the Fund's future plans, Shakra said it will allocate JD 100,000 for education, JD 200,000 for setting up homes for the aged and the poor, in addition to JD 100,000 for setting up income generating projects for the poor and JD 60,000 for a bee-breeding project.

Greater Amman organises special Ramadan programme

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality has organised special evening programmes to be carried out throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

A municipality spokesman said that the programme, which was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, entails evening prayers at the Hashemiyeh Square near the Roman Amphitheatre, downtown Amman, and lectures and seminars on religious topics.

The spokesman said that the programme is being carried out on Sundays and Thursdays each week and noted that Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat will be among the speakers.

In keeping with a tradition during the past months of Ramadan, the municipality has opened a Ramadan Souq, an open air market place, which is normally opened in the evening, to allow shoppers to buy a wide range of products at reduced prices.



Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and AAU Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Dugheim Saturday sign an agreement for establishing association's headquarters in Amman (Petra photo)

Jordan, AAU agree to establish association's HQ in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) and the Jordanian government Saturday signed an agreement for establishing the permanent headquarters in Amman.

The AAU, which was housed for the past few years at the premises of the Ministry of Higher Education, will now have a separate headquarters in Jubeiha, under the terms of the agreement signed by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and the AAU Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Dugheim.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Jordanian government will grant the AAU and its staff privileges and immunity similar to that accorded to the various Arab League organisations based in Amman and similar to those granted to diplomatic missions in the Kingdom.

Upon signing the agreement,

Dugheim voiced his appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Jordanian government for the hospitable treatment accorded to the AAU and its staff in Jordan, which, he said, enabled the association to carry out its operations and serve Arab universities.

Later, Dugheim sent a cable to King Hussein voicing his gratitude and those of the AAU staff for the establishment of the Asso-

ciation headquarters in Amman.

The AAU organises the affairs of the various seminars and conferences related to and initiated by universities in the Arab World, and collects and publishes information related to the activities of these universities.

Despite the Israeli occupation of Arab Land in Palestine the AAU has accepted the Palestinian universities as members, and continues to provide support for their activities.

7,600 TELEPHONES DISCONNECTED: The Telecommunications Corporation has recently disconnected 7,600 telephones, belonging to subscribers who failed throughout the year 1988 to settle the telephone bills to the corporation. Commenting on the corporation's measure, its Assistant Director General Walid Al Duweik said that these telephones will not be connected again until the concerned subscribers settle their telephone bills and pay the reconnection fee. Asked if the corporation will allow subscribers to pay their bills by instalments, Duweik dismissed such a possibility, saying that the corporation will not resort to such means, and called on all telephone subscribers to settle their bills for the first three months of this year (Al Ra'i).

NHF workshop prepares for opening of Jubilee School

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Saturday opened a week-long workshop on new trends in curriculum development and instructions in chemistry, in preparation for the opening of the Jubilee School.

A total of 21 specialists, educationalists, and high calibre teachers from various educational institutions are taking part in the workshop activities which are being held in cooperation with the British Council and Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Participants attending the workshop represent the Ministry of Education, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), the University of Jordan, community colleges, the Armed Forces Cultural Department and a number of Jordanian schools.

The participants will discuss and learn about new directives in matters related to problem-solv-

ing abilities such as selecting information, interpreting graphs, drawing up conclusions, explaining, predicting and generalising.

They will consider available material dealing with science and technology in the society, and will try out techniques used to develop and assess practical skills.

The participants will be oriented on the most up-to-date trends in developing curricula and designing courses for teaching chemistry and sciences.

The Jubilee School is a model secondary school for gifted students and is being established by the NHF in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's deep commitment to education and in recognition of the great strides made under his leadership.

The school will provide outstanding students from Jordan and other Arab countries with the highest quality education.

As a model school, it will contribute to the development of education throughout the region.

The Jubilee School, the establishment of which was announced during the King's 50th birthday in 1985, will offer extensive educational opportunities and allow for concentrated study.

It is also expected to provide instruction and activities aimed to encourage self reliance, high motivation, personal responsibility, skills of investigation, problem solving, creativity and independent thinking.

Two workshops were held in the summer of 1988 also in preparation for the Jubilee School which will be built on a 120 dunums of land.

The school will include laboratories, libraries, workshops, dormitories, playgrounds, an indoor swimming pool, restaurants and residential quarters for the staff.

The projected JD 4 million school is expected to be ready before the 1990-1991 scholastic year.

Cultural programme ends at Karak Castle

KARAK (Petra, J.T.) — A week-long cultural programme ended at the ancient castle of Karak in southern Jordan Saturday.

The programme which was organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentations and National Archives included book exhibitions, poetry recitals, and a display of historic documents.

Visitors enjoyed documentary films tackling different cultural subjects and lectures, and took part in seminars on the history of the Kingdom and the castle of Karak.

There was also an art exhibition featuring works of local artists and special wings for children's books. During the event books were sold at nominal cost.



The Ma'in Spa complex

Ma'in Spa overcomes communication problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ma'in Spa complex which was formally opened last year has overcome the problem of telephone communications, a step that paved the way for a noticeable increase in the number of visitors since the beginning of 1989, according to the Mr. Michael Nazzal the complex director.

He said in a statement carried by the Al Dustour daily that special rates for Jordanian families have been introduced lately in view of the current economic situation, designed to encourage domestic tourism.

In addition, Nazzal noted, a foreign tourist coming to Jordan

for the first time can benefit from a three-week tour programme which entails visits to the spa in the course of a tour of other famous places in the Kingdom, such as Madaba, Petra, Jerash and the desert castles.

The JD 14-million project which was opened in May 1988 has a 150-room hotel, as well as swimming pools, restaurants and special therapeutic facilities using mineral water.

There are also playing grounds for children open natural springs and other basic facilities. The spa can be reached through a newly built highway from Madaba, 30 kilometres south of Amman.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MORE MINERALS PRODUCED: Jordan last year produced 18 per cent more minerals than it did in the previous years, altogether worth JD 276 million compared to JD 234 million produced in 1987, according to an official from the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). The official said that Jordan's production included phosphate, fertilisers, cement and potash, most of which was exported to other countries (Petra).

IRAQI MILITARY TEAM IN AMMAN: A visiting Iraqi military delegation led by Lt.-Gen. Iyad Fathi Al Rawi Saturday called at the Armed Forces Headquarters and was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their training programmes. The delegation, which arrived in Amman last Thursday on a several day visit, will tour different military positions and archaeological sites in the Kingdom (Petra).

GREEN BELT AROUND MAFRAQ: Mafraq Municipality has prepared designs to set up a green belt around the city. It said that the belt of 30 kilometres in length and 100 metres in width is designed to protect the environment. The green belt, which is being supported by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, entails planting thousands of trees (Petra).

NMC BEGINS THIRD TERM: The National Music Conservatory (NMC) Saturday commenced its third term of the current school year with the attendance of 162 students. The students are taking instructions on playing various musical instruments by 22 high calibre instructors. All public and private schools are currently closed for the spring holiday which ends Saturday 15, 1989 (Petra).

JUST CLUB OPENS: President of the University of Science and Technology (JUST) Kamel Ajlouni Saturday opened the University Staff Club, which was established with the aim of bolstering cultural, social, sport and technical relations and enhancing the university's relations with the local community. Also Saturday the university received 50 Italian beehives which will be put in the gardens located in the university campus (Petra).

ART EXHIBITIONS: Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Saturday opened a four-day plastic art exhibition by Mousa Ijjawi. Hamdan also inaugurated another art exhibition by the artist Abdo Kashout from the University of Fine Arts Department (Petra).

AID DISTRIBUTED IN TAFLEH: The National Fund last year gave JD 128,664 as recurrent aid to some 570 families in Tafleeh Governorate and JD 1,237 to 75 foster families in the governorate (Petra).

QATARNEH INSPECTS GOVERNORATE: Zarqa Governor Eid Qatarneh Saturday paid an inspection tour to some neighbourhoods in Zarqa, Russeifa and the Hittin camp, in the eastern outskirts of Amman, and inspected the progress of work in the water and sewerage project and the road asphalt project in the camp (Petra).

JD 462,000 FOR ZARQA ROADS: Ministry of Public Works has allocated JD 462,000 for the construction and maintenance of roads in Zarqa Governorate (Petra).

AOAS to take part in Montreal conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) will take part in an annual international conference due to open in Montreal, Canada, Wednesday.

An organisation spokesman said that the week-long conference, which is organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will look into developing the ILO's international information network by transforming it into an international association to be based in Geneva.

He said that the projected association will be entrusted with collecting information and classifying all institutions concerned with administrative development.

The Montreal meeting, he said, will work out a strategy and a working plan for the coming three years.

The AOAS Director General Naser Al Sayegh, who will represent the organisation at the meeting, said that the network was established in 1980 through the joint efforts of the ILO and the United Nations Development Programme.

'Jordan to face water shortage of 75m. cubic metres annually by the year 2005'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study prepared jointly by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) reveals that the Kingdom will be facing a shortage of 75 million cubic metres of water annually by the year 2005 unless more resources are found and exploited in the Kingdom.

The study, which was submitted to a water strategy seminar held in Amman earlier this month, also revealed that nearly 85 per cent of rain water which falls in the country is either evaporated or flows down the wadis and streams to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea.

According to the study some 7,200 million cubic metres of water fall on Jordan annually

on an average basis but very little is exploited.

The study said that water resources in Jordan are being exploited for drinking and domestic use, for industry and irrigation, and the concerned authorities continue to carry out projects designed to provide more water supplies to the ever-increasing population and build dams to collect water for irrigation purposes.

It said that 96 per cent of the Kingdom's population are now supplied with drinking water from springs and underground artesian wells thanks to projects executed at Wadi Al Arba near Irbid, which supplies 20 million cubic metres annually; Qastal project, near Amman, with 15 million cubic metres capacity; Azraq project

which supplies 14 million cubic metres; Deir Alla, in the Jordan Valley, which supplies 45 million cubic metres; Sultani project near Karak with 3.5 million cubic metres; Shobak, 1.5 million cubic metres and Disi, 17 million cubic metres of water.

The big and small industries of Jordan, which consume the considerable amounts of water, are located within the population centres, the study noted.

The study noted that the successive development plans in Jordan allocated fair sums for the development of water resources — nearly JD 97 million during the 1976-1980 five-year plan, JD 250 million in the 1981-1985 plan and JD 280 in

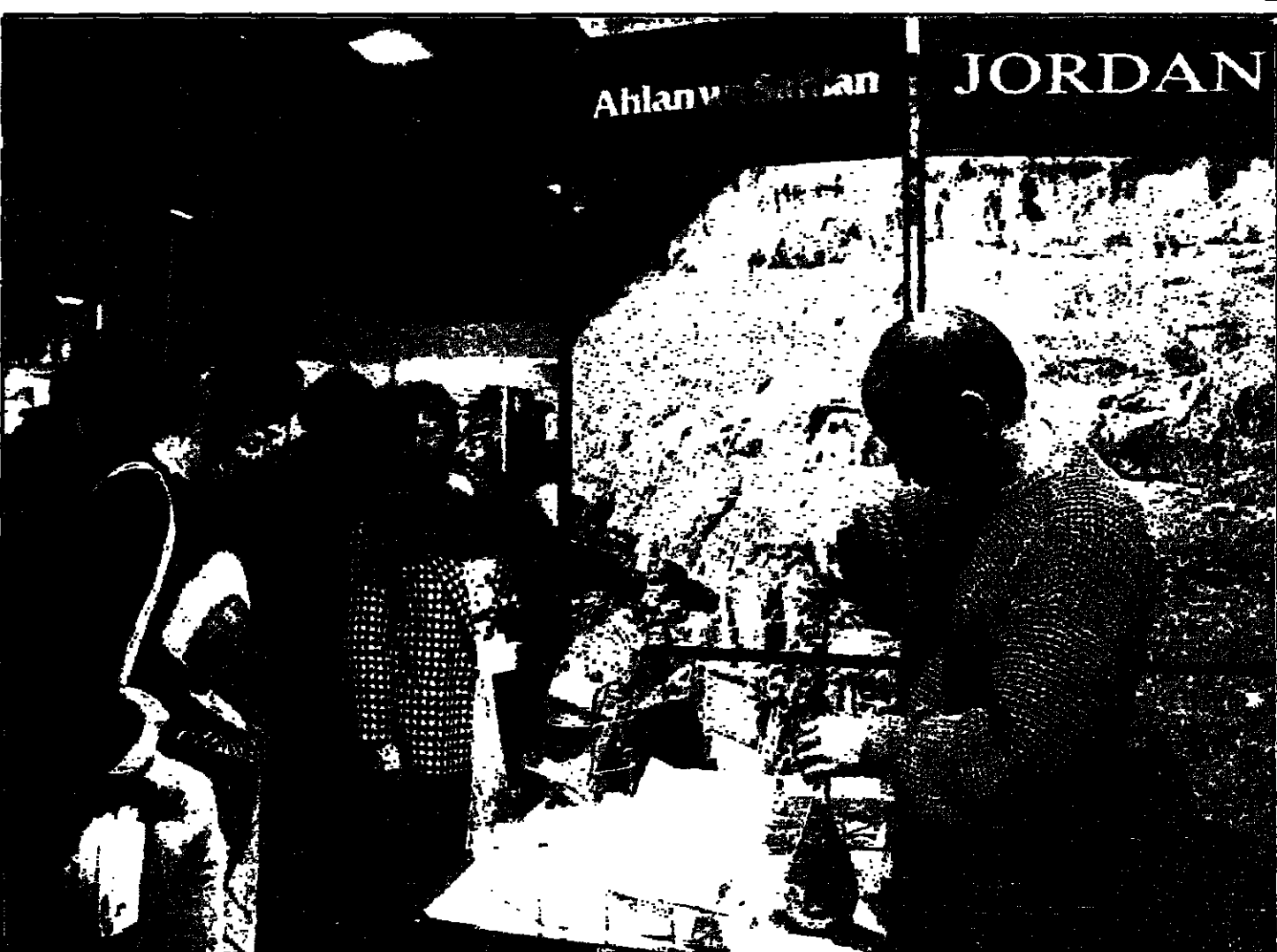
the 1986-1990 plan.

Since the beginning of the 1960s, the paper noted, Jordan has directed its attention to constructing dams in the wadis with the purpose of collecting water for irrigation.

It said that apart from Al Wahdah Dam, which is being built on the Yarmouk River near the Syrian border, Jordan has several dams which together hold an estimated 452 million cubic metres of water.

These dams are: Kafra, Wadi Al Arab, King Talal, Sharhabil, and Shueib.

According to the study the governments of Jordan has spent a total of JD 231 million on water projects and irrigation schemes in the Jordan Valley region.



Jordan takes part in Berlin Tourism Exhibition

JORDAN took part in the West Berlin Tourism Exhibition for 1989 along with 152 countries from around the world. The Jordanian pavilion at the exhibition, which was organised by the Ministry of Tourism, highlighted the numerous economic and tourist projects in the Kingdom and displayed various programmes by Jordanian tourist and travel agencies for foreign visitors in the

Kingdom. The exhibition also manifested a wide range of documents and photographs featuring the notable tourist centres such as the Dead Sea and the ancient sites. The Ministry of Tourism has organised the pavilion in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian office in Frankfurt.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mousa Ajjawi at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An art exhibition by Dr. Abdo Kashout of the Fine Arts Department at the Yarmouk University.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "Brian's Song" at the American Centre — 4:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Moment of truth

THE MOMENT of truth about the outcome of President George Bush's encounters with leaders of the countries most directly affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict would only come when His Majesty King Hussein also gets his turn with the American president and his senior aides in the White House and Washington on April 19. The picture emerging thus far in the wake of President Bush's meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is blurry at this stage of the game. The Arab World would have to suspend final judgment about what has really transpired in Washington until His Majesty King Hussein concludes his talks there and reports to the Arab Nation on the results of his meetings with the American officials.

It was not fortuitous, one still hopes, when President George Bush presented his blueprint for peace in the Middle East, at the end of his talks with President Mubarak, in such a way to begin with a call for an end to Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and end with the convening of a properly structured international conference; with granting the Palestinians their full political rights serving as a central point. As long as these propositions remain the cardinal features of American policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, then the Arab side would have a good cause for optimism. Any deviation from these fundamental principles, or any attempt to dilute their potency by accepting diversionary recipes, should be rejected outright. King Hussein's forthcoming visit to Washington would therefore serve as the litmus paper which will gauge fully and completely the American scene as far as the Middle East is concerned. Such a trip would also write the third chapter about Washington's story on the Middle East and would probably address, inter alia, the question of how to reconcile the apparent American acceptance of the Israeli offer to conduct elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the three cardinal principles duly formulated and accepted by President Bush, namely, the end of Israeli occupation of Arab territories, acceptance of the political rights of the Palestinians and the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. At the end of the question remains, is the concept of elections going to be simply a decoy for procrastinating and derailing these very salient features about ultimate peace between the two sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and for frustrating the PLO's role in the projected international conference?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Saturday tackled the American administration's handling of the Middle East situation, criticising it for supporting Israel's determination not to talk to the PLO, not to endorse the projected international conference and not to accept the Palestinian state. The paper said that the Bush administration furthermore, backed Israel's idea of implementing the Camp David accord in stages. The paper expressed astonishment at the Bush administration's behaviour and said that while U.S. Secretary of State James Baker advised Israel to talk to the PLO, we see the Bush administration backing Shamir's idea of rejecting any meetings with the PLO and supporting Israel's call for elections in the occupied lands. The paper said that Bush has tried to show that Washington was not adamant in its position with regard to the conference, but at the same time shelved any thinking about this question until the "proper time," as he called it. This strange behaviour on the part of the U.S. administration, the paper noted, is bound to cast doubts on the American credibility. It added that such position can only point to the fact that Washington continues to stick to its views and wants a solution to come through its own efforts and in agreement with Israel with the total exclusion of the Europeans and other parties.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Tareq Masarweh also tackles Washington's stand vis a vis the Palestine question and asks why should elections be held in the occupied territories. The writer wonders why Washington wants to create substitutes for the PLO leadership at a time when its own representatives are currently holding a dialogue with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people in Tunis. What could the Palestinians negotiate with Israel about while they are under occupation and what would they gain if they stopped the intifada, the writer asks. He says that Israel ought to end its occupation of the Arab territories first and then invite the Palestinians for negotiations in the presence of U.N. Security Council members and other concerned parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The writer says that by presenting the "elections" question to the U.S. administration, the Israelis are clearly telling the world that they refuse to implement Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and so they refuse to have peace.

Al Dustour daily echoes a total rejection of Shamir's idea about elections to choose substitutes for the PLO leadership. Shamir's proposals, it said, have been totally and outrightly rejected inside and outside the occupied territories since they are nothing but a ploy to deceive the world. The paper said that Shamir who presented the elections proposal is careful to implement the Camp David agreement, and has gone to Washington with only this idea on his mind. Shamir has totally ignored the question of peace and the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the prospect of an international conference to achieve that end.

Sawt Al Shaab daily newspaper said that Shamir tried to show the world that he was keen on ending the Arab-Israeli conflict but failed to mention any idea of pulling out Israeli forces from the occupied lands. The paper said that the question of peace with the Arab states and the implementation of resolutions to achieve that goal were never contemplated by the Israeli premier; and all he was keen about is to present the proposal of elections to be held under the yoke of occupation. If the United States wants to go along with Shamir in his ideas about the elections without giving any thought of asking Israel to pull out from the occupied lands, the paper said, then it has chosen a path that can never bring peace closer to the region.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

The ability to adjust spurs optimism

PREVIOUSLY we used to talk of a "Red Line," beyond which external indebtedness becomes too heavy and unsafe. The people were always told that we were still within the safety boundaries, and that we did not reach, and have no intention of crossing, the red line. The red line however, was flexible and mobile. Starting with a suggested percentage of the value of exports of goods and services including remittances, until it exceeded the set line, we then conveniently changed the percentage rate upward and pushed the line forward, and thus we still remain within the safety limits.

Now it became obvious and beyond dispute that we have crossed the red line at least seven years ago, and found ourselves suddenly deep in an unsafe and dangerous territory. Unfortunately, we needed long time to acknowledge the bitter fact that the external indebtedness became a very heavy burden, far exceeding the capacity of the national economy to service, and that a major part of our capital expenditure represented a borrowed development that was hopelessly unable to pay back the capital and service the related debt, at least in the short run.

At this stage we have to reform and adjust the economy in a comprehensive manner, reducing financial deficit, removing

inefficiencies here and there, and putting the house in order, and the direction on the right course. We should not think for a moment that the measures taken to reform the economy, whether in accordance with IMF prescriptions or otherwise, are meant only to enable Jordan come up with the foreign exchange needed to pay back the foreign debt. The reforms are absolutely necessary as desired objectives by themselves, so that we can survive the crisis, and secure the minimum and basic requirements of both production and consumption.

I am of the opinion that the full repayment of due installments and interest is beyond our ability, even if the economy was actually reformed and adjusted properly. Repayment of debt needs a much larger economy, and a substantial growth. A surplus in the current account of the balance of payment is also needed to make repayment of debts in foreign currencies possible, but such surplus is not expected to happen overnight or in the few years to come.

Some calculations of financial ratios may be in order to demonstrate the above conclusion. If Jordan's indebtedness is within the range of \$6.5 to \$7 billion, we can assume that debt service needs between \$1-1.5 billion a year, of which half

represents interest and the other half represents installments on principal loans.

The above estimate makes between 30 to 50 per cent of the over all national income, or 200 per cent of the proceeds of commodity exports, or 40 to 65 per cent of the gross receipts of foreign exchange from all sources.

The settlement of this relatively huge burden is extremely difficult even at the best of circumstances; therefore, the process of restructuring the economy must be accompanied by a substantial relief of the indebtedness burden, the repayment of which is obviously beyond Jordan's capacity now and in the near future.

The business community is aware of the fact that the IMF team is optimistic about the future of the Jordanian economy. They rightly think that it is curable, that the crisis is containable, and that the remedies are manageable. The major factor in this attitude is not the current situation as it stands, but the ability to change.

During the last six months, the government showed that it is in charge and able to make rather tough decisions. That is a very welcome start, but it is only the start of a long way we have to go.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

French opposition in disarray

By Nicholas Kotch
Reuters

PARIS — Weakened by a string of electoral failures, the old guard running France's conservative opposition is in disarray following a challenge from a new generation of rising political stars.

Leaders of the RPR-UDF alliance were caught unprepared and confused by pressure for a wholesale rethink of their strategy.

The assault was led by Michel

Noir, riding high since his election

last month as mayor of Lyon, France's third city, and touted as

a future presidential prospect.

Noir and his supporters seized

the initiative last weekend when

they showed scant respect for

their elders, notably RPR presi-

dent and former Prime Minister

Jacques Chirac.

"The French are tired of tactical games, squabbles between leaders and the problem of so-and-so's status."

"The French want a profound change," Noir told a key RPR gathering in the Riviera resort of Nice.

The applause left Chirac and his lieutenants shifting uncomfortably in their seats.

The old team, many in their 60s and former aides of the late President General Charles de Gaulle, founder of the RPR, have a lot to answer for in the eyes of the younger brigade.

So has ex-president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the 63-year-old chief of the centrist UDF.

In the past 11 months the opposition has suffered three clear defeats at the polls against

France's Socialist-led government.

Chirac's bid for the presidency was easily overcome by incumbent Francois Mitterrand last May and the centre-right went on to lose control of parliament and concede substantial terrain in last month's municipal elections.

Several years of Socialist domination stretch ahead with both Mitterrand and his prime minister, Michel Rocard, faring well in opinion polls. No national elections are due until 1997.

The Noir camp made a strong pitch for all the places on the list of opposition candidates at the June 18 European elections to be chosen from the young "renovators" group.

"Young" in French political terms means the under-50s, political commentators say. Noir is in

fact a grandfather although at 44 one of the fittest and best-looking in France.

But the challenge to Chirac has not only come from moderates like Noir who hope to dislodge Mitterrand from the soft, consensual centre of French politics.

The threat also lies on the right in the powerful shape of Corsican Charles Pasqua, a former interior minister who thinks the RPR has lost its way.

"When you are in politics, you need convictions. Our problem is that we don't have enough people with convictions," Pasqua said at Nice, dismissing talk of full fusion between the RPR and the UDF. "We will have trouble trying to occupy the ground on the centre-left. The Socialists are there already."

Mystery route of the U.S. economy

By Naseem Abdallah

WASHINGTON — A series of conflicting signals have again raised the key question about the American economy: is it robust and kicking or is it finally slowing down?

In recent weeks there have been, quite unbelievably, convincing indications of both events occurring. While the Labour Department has been reporting increases in new jobs, the private sector has been warning of slower economic activity. The National Association of Purchasing Management, quoting a survey, maintained that it had found "a sharp drop in the rate of economic growth" in the United States.

This was quite in contrast with Labour Department statistics which showed that jobs had increased considerably, 415,000 in January and 289,000 in February. "If the economy is slowing down then where are the jobs coming from?" demanded one economist. "At the same time, if there are jobs in the market then how is that an indication of a stagnating economy?"

Qualified senior economists believe that when simplified, the situation, in the words of one expert, "makes no sense at all." Most gurus in the higher echelons of Wall Street have been careful enough not to make any sweeping predictions because "the signs either way are too mixed."

Investment consultants said the labour figures were good in the short-term for the U.S. dollar but bad for the fight against inflation and, therefore, unwelcome.

"It's a silly thing to say, but

nobody wants to hear about job

increases while the fears of higher

inflation remain real," said one

economist.

A study by Goldman Sachs addressed what it called "questions on the minds of investors." "Are the fundamental reasons for slower economic growth still in place?" it asked, then answered, "yes, net exports and capital spending stalled in the second half of 1988, and current signs point to continued stagnation rather than a resumption of growth in these sectors."

The Goldman Sachs study also asserted that improved employment figures and increased factory orders "become ambiguous when growth is slowing." Neither job figures nor factory orders correctly indicated the U.S. growth slowdown from 5.3 per cent in the second half of 1987 to 3 per cent in the second half of 1988. Factory order statistics can often be misleading: gaps in important sectors masked by gains in selected areas, it said.

The Sachs survey also contested theories that the U.S. economy may be headed for a "three-point soft landing" featuring moderate growth, moderately higher inflation and rising profits.

In its conclusion Goldman Sachs ruled out the possibility of Americans being "buried alive" under a consumer debt mountain — a favourite theme of those pessimistic about the U.S. eco-

nomy's direction.

But, despite the high-powered crystal gazing by some of the country's most eminent economic analysts, the questions about the future remain largely unanswered. This is because few pundits are prepared to risk their reputations and define a) the path and b) the speed of the U.S. economic slowdown.

In many economists' view the slowing of growth will have to be quick-paced enough to avoid the destabilising effect of a surge in inflation and perhaps a recession. But how is that to be achieved in real life? No-one knows. Meanwhile, inflation seems to be creeping up and keeping most investors and planners on tenter hooks.

Another question which has often been raised relates to the chronic budget and trade deficits. What will happen, it is being asked, if the U.S. dollar collapses under the consistent pressure of the two deficits? Again no-one has the answer.

There is an ongoing debate on the level of inflation that the United States could consider "safe" and the level at which the country should take action.

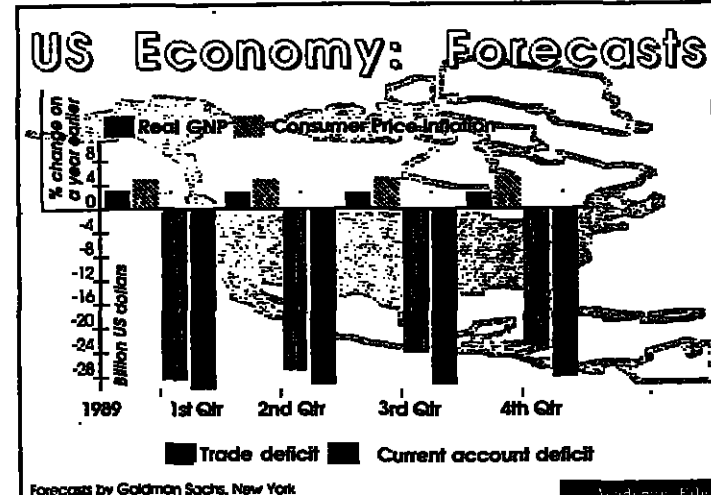
Since 1982, the United States has paid lip-service to its commitment to anti-inflationary measures and yet it hasn't suffered as a result of its pronouncements either in terms of jobs or economic growth. An oversupply of raw materials worldwide, as well as fierce competition from Asian

manufacturers, helped keep American price increases below four per cent. U.S. factories operated at nearly record rates of capacity.

But Ronald Reagan's luck seems not to have rubbed off on George Bush," said one commentator recently. "As he (Bush) was campaigning for president, commodity prices were rising and the weak dollar was reducing foreign competition, allowing domestic manufacturers to raise the prices of everything from plastics to shoes."

Most western economists believe the United States may already be headed into the lap of a self-perpetuating price-driven inflation. With labour costs rising at an annual rate of 6.8 per cent, the Federal Reserve Board seems in no mood to delay. The Fed has gradually tightened credit, allowing the federal funds rate on overnight bank loans to rise three percentage points since May. This experts believe, can only have a negative impact on growth.

The Fed's policy on controlling inflation or, for that matter, its policy on credit squeeze remains unclear. But economists agree that the United States will be a more expensive place to live in during the coming months. Furthermore, in the view of these experts, the United States will eventually be shedding jobs and losing out to competition in the marketplace in the near future. Those who disagree with that scenario point out that time alone may tell — Academic File.



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A matter of life and death

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

ABYEI, Sudan — Rain brings life and death to south Sudan. If it falls too soon or too hard, the malnourished refugees who daily stagger into the southern town of Abyei will face starvation — their supply lines cut by floods. If it comes too late, the crops planted in the parched dry fields in the hope of a good harvest will wither and die.

Thousands of people in Abyei, 800 kilometres southwest of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, are being fed by supplies from Al-Muglad to the northwest — a lifeline in which the United Nations has now joined and that should last until June when the rainy season sets in.

But there are signs that the May-October rains might be early this year, bringing with them a harvest of death.

Abyei had its first rain in late March, nearly six weeks early. Now the southerners can only watch the sky and pray this does not herald floods. Rain also fell as far north as Khartoum in late March.

Flying out of Abyei, heavy, dark thunderclouds were seen on the horizon moving south.

Weathermen in Khartoum say there are signs that the rains will be heavy and start prematurely. Last year, floods swept the south, making many thousands homeless, wiping out crops and adding more misery to the lot of people already facing civil war, famine, disease and starvation.

The 1988 floods cut roads linking Abyei with the rest of the Kordofan region and its airstrip was under water, preventing food and medicine from reaching the town's refugees.

At least 6,000 people died in Abyei between June and October last year from hunger and disease. They were among an estimated 250,000 southerners who perished in 1988.

The U.N. says 100,000 more could die this year unless help reaches them before the rains set in. On April 1, the U.N. sent its first road relief convoy from Khartoum to Al-Muglad to collect supplies for Abyei in what it calls a race against time to save lives.

There are about 20,000 southern refugees in Abyei, mostly from the southern regions of Bahr Al-Ghazal and upper Nile. They live in makeshift camps close to hundreds of shallow graves on the edge of the town —

grim reminders of last year's tragedy.

Abyei is inhabited by members of the southern majority Dinka tribe. Dinkas provide the nucleus of the SPLA's estimated 40,000 guerrillas fighting to end what they see as domination over the animist and Christian south by the Muslim and Arabised north.

Army foxholes ring the town's dirt airstrip and troops routinely comb the surrounding bush in search of infiltrating rebels.

An average of 100 refugees arrive daily in Abyei, according to Omar Mohammad Al Lihai, the representative in Abyei of the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC).

He said the RRC expected the town's refugee population to shoot up to 35,000 in the next few months. He said 36,000 out of 55,000 sacks of sorghum needed to feed the refugees were already in place.

However, Ronald Paajnakars, a Dutchman who heads a team of relief workers belonging to the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, said the number of refugees in Abyei could swell beyond RRC estimates.

"There is another factor that is not being taken into account and



"At least 6,000 people died in Abyei between June and October last year from hunger and disease. They were among an estimated 250,000 southerners who perished in 1988."

that is the fact that nearly 25 per cent of the content of each sack of sorghum which arrives in Abyei is missing through holes and inefficient handling," he said.

Malaria and diarrhoea were widespread among the refugees, who Paajnakars said drank from a seasonal river in which they bathed, washed and urinated.

Salibi — on the origins of faith

The Lebanese scholar Kamal Salibi has come out with yet another book based on his research into Christianity. It's controversial but it's gripping — and unlikely to win him new friends.

By Maureen Ali

LONDON — The indefatigable Kamal Salibi, author of *The Bible Came from Arabia*, and *Secrets of the Bible People*, has done it again. In a new book entitled *Conspiracy in Jerusalem*, he once more examines the Biblical evidence pertaining to some of the most cherished popular beliefs and comes up with startling new interpretations.

In this new work, subtitled, *The Hidden Origins of Jesus*, Salibi tackles one of the greatest unsolved mysteries: who exactly was Jesus and where did he come from. His findings demolish the established view of Christ, but make no attempt to undermine the basic tenets of the Christian faith, to which Salibi himself adheres.

As in previous books Salibi invites the reader to embark with him upon a sort of detective story. This involves investigation of various source materials, and analysis of their linguistic composition. It is Salibi's contention that errors in translation or transcription have resulted in repeated misinterpretations of original texts.

As in the earlier works, Salibi starts from the hypothesis that the origins of the Old Testament lie not in Palestine but in Western Arabia. And that it is here that story of Jesus begins — though not in the form we know it today.

Jesus, he concludes, is an amalgamation of three figures: Al-Isa, an ancient Arabian life-giving god; the prophet Issa (Jesus), as he is referred to in the Koran, and a certain Jeshu (Jesus) who died on the cross in Palestine but whose origins lie in Arabia.

Much of the book is devoted to examining the evidence regarding these three figures and to illustrating how or where their stories cohere. Salibi writes:

"... Four sources are certainly involved. First, there is the early Greek Gospel of Mark, which put together various traditions of

Jesus which had survived in different Christian circles since the time of the apostles. Second, there is the Nazarene Gospel of Arabia prophet Issa, who lived about four centuries before the time of the Jesus of Christian convention. Third, there are the scriptures of the Arabian god Jesus, Al-Isa, also called Dhu Khalusah, which could have comprised more than one document.

BOOK REVIEW

Fourth, we have Paul's special vision of Jesus as the living Christ who is the eternal 'Son of God' which is detectable in all four Gospels."

Paul's vision, Salibi maintains, had little to do with the crucified Christ. Following his fabled conversion, Paul went directly to Arabia, where he searched for knowledge of the true Christ. It is here, Salibi believes, that he unearthed the Nazarene Gospel of the Prophet Issa, which became absorbed into his teaching.

It was 14 years before Paul met Peter and the other disciples in Jerusalem and it took even longer for them to resolve their basic differences. Paul's theology was much at odds with that of the disciples and it was he who came to dominate the Christian sect and even finance the others to keep them going. Salibi believes that but for Paul's reaching, Christianity might well have disappeared after the Romans sacked the Temple of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Peter and the Apostles, Salibi maintains, were probably the followers of a charismatic young man called Jeshu, a descendant from the house of David, who travelled from Arabia to Palestine with a view to staking his claim to the throne there. He died on the cross as the victim of political expediency. In all probability, this young man was a follower of the Nazarene gospel of Issa which Paul rediscovered in

Arabia. As in his previous books, Salibi tests his theories against the geographical background of Western Arabia, tracing the coexistence of place names and locations of potential significance. Once again he illustrates how the geography of Palestine often impedes a clear interpretation of the Bible stories, whereas, specific areas in Arabia encourage their clarification.

Key stories about Christ, including his betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection are analysed. Also the story of the raising of Lazarus, which Salibi links with the Al-Isa myth.

Salibi's theories have won him few friends and this new book is unlikely to change that. It is unlikely that his work will be seen as a determined assault on long held beliefs, which is not his intention at all. As he explains in his introduction, "We are not out to expose any scandal or to prove Christian belief false."

Salibi is well aware of the critical attitude people hold of him. He has been roundly condemned by many in the academic community but he carries the courage of his convictions. "It is quite possible, indeed, that you will be tempted to dismiss the author as a pretentious crank, undertaking the present work mainly for sensation."

"Should you be tempted to do so, please first stop and ask yourself how certain you and other scholars in your specialist field are of the validity of any of the historical explanations regarding the Jesus question which have been advanced. A considerable assortment of theories on the subject have been proposed since the earliest days of New Testament criticism, yet none has so far gained general acceptance as being truly convincing. Even the theories which have produced the most learned opinion remain no more than tentative speculation."

Whatever conclusions others may reach about Salibi's intentions, the verdict on his book is that it is tantalising. Salibi meticulously unravels the threads like a seasoned mystery writer and it is impossible not to get caught up in the search for clues or to enjoy the logic of his discoveries — *Academic File*.

Health packages Cuban style

By Gilles Trequesser
Reuters

HAVANA — A Cuban treatment for skin disease is drawing thousands of patients to Havana, part of Cuba's plan to become a top medical centre for the developing world.

Already boasting one of the Third World's most advanced health systems, Cuba is exploring ways to use its medical expertise to earn hard currency amid the worst foreign exchange shortage since the 1959 revolution.

To help turn medical advances into monetary dividends, the government created Servimex. The firm is a subsidiary of the Cubanacan holding company set up in 1987 to generate hard currency by developing the tourist sector and establishing joint ventures, a novelty in Cuba.

Primarily through "health tourism" packages, Servimex is expected to earn \$30 million this year, a jump from about four million in 1988, said its director Dr. Ricardo Martinez Rojas.

"Some of our medical technology is very successful in developing countries, it was a matter of finding new outlets and also to respond to demand," he told reporters.

Among the interested potential foreign patients are those who suffer vitiligo, a disorder that creates smooth white patches of skin. It affects millions of people worldwide.

A Cuban doctor, Carlos Miyares Cao, pioneered the "melagenina," ointment to treat the depigmentation. "People hear about our vitiligo treatment, they want to know more, they eventually visit us," Martinez said.

Made in Cuba
Miyares Cao began developing the treatment using melagenina — a placental extract to alcohol — in 1973 and began using it on a large scale in 1985. In 80 per cent of the cases, Miyares Cao told reporters in an interview, the treatment was successful.

He said a clinic in the Canary Islands offered vitiligo treatment with the "Made in Cuba" medicine. Contacts have been established abroad, and the ointment may eventually be manufactured

under licence in Britain, Canada, India and Italy.

About 110 patients per month from 70 countries come to his small, modern clinic in the residential Miramar district.

Servimex packages that include room and board at a Havana hotel allow them to spend a minimum of a week for treatment — including computer analysis of how the cure is progressing and the vitiligo spots vanishing. The packages cost up to \$250.

Patients travel from as far away as Australia and India. One Indian diplomat said that in India, where most marriages are still arranged, misconceptions about vitiligo and the stigma it carries could cloud a young woman's marriage prospects.

Miyares Cao's best known patient, 35-year-old Sri Lankan-born Sarojini Ariyanayagam knows how it feels to be looked at "like a freak."

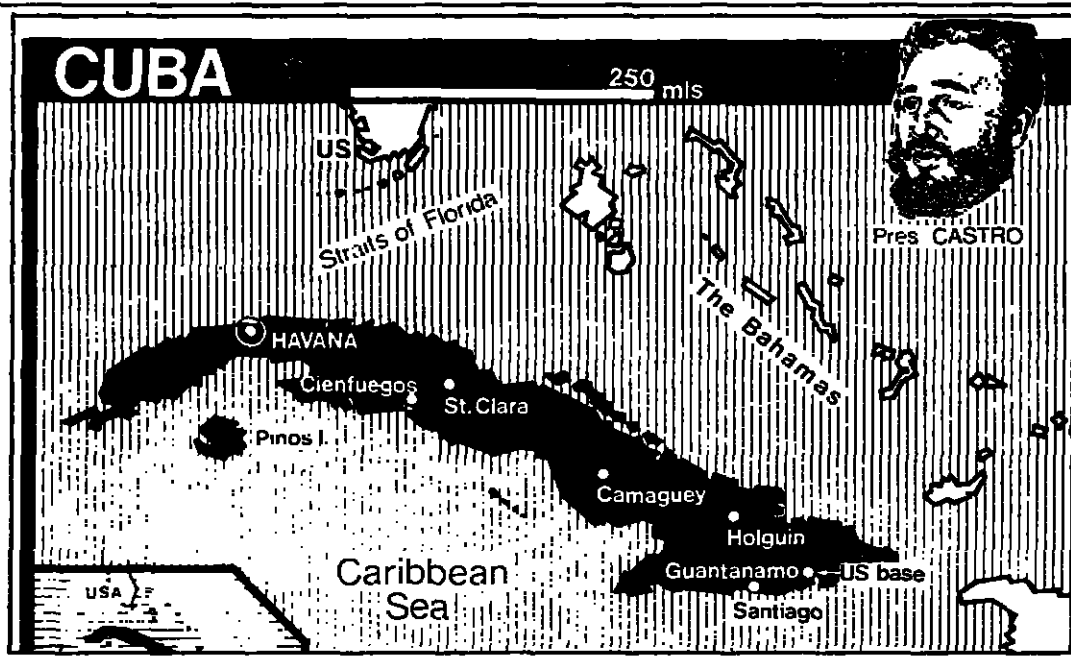
A British resident, she came here in 1986 for three months and returned a year ago to stay until the end of the treatment.

Describing herself as a "test case," she has now recovered a spectacular 40 per cent from an 85 per cent depigmentation. Her photograph adorns Servimex brochures and she works at the clinic in exchange for free treatment.

The vitiligo clinic is a stone's throw from the Cira Garcia clinic where Cubanacan offers a \$200 three-hour complete medical check up for foreign visitors, with a 10 per cent discount for participants in congresses and international events.

Other sectors in which Cuba can use its potential to become a "medical power" are cornea, kidney, bone marrow transplants and brain tissue transplant for Parkinson's disease sufferers. An assembly-line operation treatment for nearsightedness that began last year is only the second of its kind in the world, after Moscow.

Cira Garcia caters to foreign residents and diplomats only. But regular patients complain that did not make it immune to common flaws of Cuban public service: bored, ill-humoured personnel and indifferent attention.



Cordoba — an escape from bingo and debts

By Frances Kerry
Reuters

CORDOBA — Bingo was more than a pleasant evening out for 53-year-old Spanish businessman Jose. It was an obsession which shattered his life and drove him to attempt suicide.

Now free of his addiction, Jose says he could not have broken the habit without the help of Acojer, a special centre in the southern Spanish city of Cordoba which treats compulsive gambling as an illness rather than a vice.

Acojer was set up last June by Dr. Roman Fernandez, who worked at a centre for alcoholics and spotted signs of another addiction among some of his patients.

The only centre of its kind in Spain, it has so far treated 90 people whose lives were crippled by their obsession with bingo, slot-machines, card games or other forms of gambling.

Jose, who like other patients declined to give his real name, was comfortably-off and successful before he found himself locked in a downward spiral of family and work problems, escape to bingo and debt.

"I was in a state of endless anguish. The only time I wasn't suffering was when I was playing," he told reporters.

His addiction started innocently, evenings in "an agreeable atmosphere where you make friends, have a coffee or a drink."

"Then it got to the stage I realised I was incapable of getting up and leaving when I should have done. Instead of being there for two hours, I stayed for five."

"At the end of the night you feel so guilty, you don't know how to go home, so you don't go home, although you know how much damage that's going to do." At his worst, Jose spent \$4,347 in a four-day spree, money he and his family could ill afford.

Finally, comparing the man he had been with what he had become, guilty about the effects on his wife and three children and bitterly aware of the mess he had made of his life, Jose saw suicide as the only way out and took an overdose of pills.

After recovering, he became one of Acojer's first patients. "The most important thing was meeting other people with the same problem, realising I was not a unique case," said Jose.

Like Jose, 41-year-old businessman Manuel — also not his real name — virtually wrecked his life, spending up to \$2,600 a month on bingo.

The need to satisfy his habit drove Manuel to steal from his business. He lost his job and did a spell in prison which then made it hard to get another job. His family broke up — his wife and child moved out — and he sought solace with more gambling.

"It was impossible to get out, I

didn't see any way out," Manuel said, adding he also thought frequently of suicide.

Acojer's patients, more often men than women but not from any particular social class, are often using gambling to escape family or work problems, Fernandez said.

"They no longer play to win, they play to play and it becomes a way of running away from their problems. The slot machine or whatever becomes their companion. They feel pleasure while playing and desolation afterwards."

By the time they come to the centre, a "financial jolt" has woken them up to their problem — Fernandez has seen patients with debts of up to \$220,000 — but they are unable to break the habit alone.

Group sessions, getting addicts to compare their lives and realise they are not unique in their addiction, and involving families as

much as possible, are an important part of therapy.

For the first time, addicts find themselves treated with sympathy and understanding rather than with families' and society's customary incomprehension or rejection.

Drugs are not used, but the centre's psychologists try to turn compulsion into a phobia, persuading patients to see gambling as the cause of their problems rather than an escape.

Acojer, which is funded by donations and run by doctors giving their time free, says it has had an 80 per cent cure rate, with the remaining 20 per cent on the way to recovery.

It has attracted a third of its patients from outside Cordoba and is now opening a branch in Madrid, responding to a problem which Fernandez reckons could affect up to three per cent of Spaniards, if families suffering the effects of an addict in the

house are included.

But despite this he does not believe gambling addiction is particular to the Spanish temperament.

Lotteries and football pools, although firmly entrenched in Spanish social life, are "passive" and far less addictive than "active" games such as bingo or slot machines.

Those were legalised in 1976 following the death of late dictator Francisco Franco. Colourful one-armed bandits suddenly began tinkling their tunes out in bars and bingos opened all over the country, causing something of a boom in gambling addiction, Fernandez said.

Fernandez does not advocate a return to a ban, but he does wish slot machines were less conspicuous, and a little less ubiquitous.

"Psychologists design these things, you know. They're deliberately made to be alluring."

Switzerland hazardous waste convention meets at Basel

BASEL — Top government officials from over 100 countries converged on Basel between 20-22 March to seek final agreement on a treaty to control and limit the international transport and disposal of hazardous waste.

Mostafa K. Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which has convened the conference, admitted that "several highly controversial questions still have to be resolved."

The convention continued discussions from the last meeting in Luxembourg in the first week of February, concerning issues such as the rights of transit countries and the right innocent passage: off-shore territories; flags of convenience; the responsibility of states and illegal traffic, and bi-

lateral, multilateral or regional agreements.

In his closing statement Tolba said "our agreement has not halted the commerce in poison. But it has signalled the international resolve to eliminate the menace hazardous wastes pose to the welfare of our shared environment and to the health of the world's peoples."

Jan Huisman, a UNEP scientist who directs the Geneva-based International Register Potentially Toxic (IRPTC), estimating the scale of the global trade in hazardous waste, stated "no one really knows. Greenpeace estimates that more than 3 million tonnes of waste were shipped from industrialised countries to less developed countries between 1986 and 1988" — *Parade*.



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Africans challenge World Bank on merits of reform

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African economic planners have challenged World Bank findings on the merits of reforms sponsored by it and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Strong devotees of World Bank and IMF structural adjustment programmes have fared worse than other countries, they argue in reports to a four-day meeting of African ministers for economic planning and development.

"The overall annual average growth rate for Africa as a whole was a relatively low 0.4 per cent between 1980-87, largely influenced by the poor performance of countries with strong adjustment programmes," said one report.

The report is a toned-down version of radical proposals presented to African finance ministers in March for a home-grown alternative to the conventional reforms prescribed by the IMF and the World Bank.

The report is expected to be adopted, possibly with further modification, when delegates to the current meeting are joined by their finance ministers Monday.

It favours long-term, "human-centred" rebuilding of economies, to replace IMF and World Bank measures which it says focus too much on short-term stabilisation of finances through spending cuts which undermine health, education and other needs.

Drawn up by the United Na-

tions Economic Commission for Africa, a think-tank set up in 1958 to promote regional cooperation, the report is seen by its supporters as a framework for negotiations with foreign creditors and donors.

This and another report, copies of which were obtained by Reuters, said the commission's own analysis of World Bank data showed 19 strong adherents in sub-Saharan Africa of IMF and World Bank-sponsored reforms had seen their economies shrink on average 1.5 per cent over the period 1980-87.

Twelve countries that had made weak attempts at adjustments had achieved growth of 1.2 per cent while 14 countries that did not have structural adjustment programmes had noticed an annual average growth of 3.1 per cent.

The economies of the five countries north of the Sahara meantime grew 1.5 per cent.

The World Bank, in a report released one month ago entitled Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s, said: "The evidence points to better overall economic performance in countries that pursue strong reform program-

mes than those that did not."

The commission attributed the disparity to its use of weighted averages while it said the bank used unweighted ones.

The African reports said certain criteria used in the World Bank report were vague and there was some lack of uniformity in use of country groupings.

Its findings also failed to take account of different levels of structural deficiencies among countries, and factors such as weather, commodity market conditions, foreign fund inflows and debt, the reports alleged.

The World Bank report, prepared jointly with the U.N. Development Programme, said although the region still faced difficulties, encouraging signs had emerged in recent years which "though still preliminary, augur well for the future."

The commission's executive secretary, Adebayo Adedeji, in a 1989 economic report issued Thursday, warned African countries not to be lulled into a false sense of security.

"Any attempt to portray the economic situation currently prevailing in Africa in rosy terms, to minimise the impact of an adverse external environment and to depict the effects of structural adjustment programmes as having been always positive... is cynical in the extreme," he said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

IDB earmarks \$126m in financing

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has earmarked \$126 million to finance development projects, grants and trade in member states, the Islamic News Agency has said. It said the Jeddah-based bank agreed to finance four development projects worth 27.290 million Islamic dinars (\$36 million) in Bangladesh, Sudan, Oman and Algeria. The 46-member IDB will finance nine trade operations worth 66.115 million dinars (\$87.5 million) and will grant \$2.15 million to Islamic institutions, it added.

Moroccans moan over tomato price hikes

RABAT (R) — Moroccans are moaning because of a sudden 400 per cent increase in the price of tomatoes, a basic ingredient of the traditional "harira soup" during the Ramadan fast. A tour of the Rabat market revealed they were being retailed at eight dirhams per kilogramme when they were only two dirhams less than a month ago. "It's a scandal," an irate housewife said. The merchant shrugged his shoulders and said wholesalers were charging seven dirhams. Morocco is a major tomato producer and exported 155,000 tonnes last season. The Association of Vegetable Growers said output had declined by almost half this season although acreage was up by 20 per cent. A spokesman said producers were getting four dirhams a kilogramme and he could not explain why production had fallen despite heavy rain in February and March. The pro-government daily Maroc Soir reported that 3,000 tonnes of tomatoes were being exported for the first time to neighbouring Algeria this month. The opposition daily Al Bayane, which claimed tomatoes were being offered at ten dirhams in Casablanca or 500 per cent more than in mid-March, blamed the increase on the authorities and their failure to enforce price controls during Ramadan.

Foreigners own 1% of U.S. farm land

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreigners continue to own just under one per cent of U.S. agricultural land, slightly more than a year ago, the Agricultural Department has reported. The department's Economic Research Service said its 1988 year-end review of reports under the decade-old agricultural foreign investment disclosure act found about 12.5 million acres in foreign hands, 99,100 acres more than reported in 1987. Much of the ownership is concentrated in the United Kingdom, Canada, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, and Switzerland. Those countries combined to account for about 60 per cent of all foreign-held acreage. The report said that "93 per cent of the foreign-owned acreage will remain in agricultural production, according to foreign owners."

U.S. rejects ADC suit, upholds GSP for Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. review panel has recommended upholding Israel's trade privileges with the United States, rejecting a suit filed by an Arab American group, sources have revealed.

The ruling by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has been submitted to President George Bush for his approval, and an announcement is expected this week, the sources added.

A spokeswoman for the USTR declined to discuss the panel's findings, but other officials said a complaint filed against Israeli labour practices by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) last year was rejected.

The ADC, which lobbies for the rights of Arab Americans, last year accused Israel of violating international labour and union protection laws for thousands of Palestinians who work in Israel and in the occupied territories.

According to U.S. law, Israel stood to lose trading privileges it enjoys under the General System of Preferences (GSP), which grants dozens of countries the right to export products to the United States free of duties. The United States agreed to

investigate the complaint, along with petitions against Haiti, Liberia and Malaysia and held hearings late last year.

The trade panel contended that Israel had taken steps in recent months to rectify some violations of workers' rights and therefore deserved continued GSP rights, said one source.

The panel declined to rule on the complaint about Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, citing U.S. policy of not recognising what Israel claims as its "legal" rights over the occupied territories, said another source who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

That ruling was based on a recommendation from the State Department's legal adviser, said the source.

Abdeen, Jabara, who heads the ADC, said that the very fact that hearings were held on Israel's labour practices towards Palestinians "was an important and positive thing because it raises the consciousness of how Palestinians are treated by Israel."

He said the finding that some rights had been violated means that Israel "has not been given a clean bill of health."

Study highlights Jordanian exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study prepared by Ali Dajani, advisor at the Amman Chamber of Industry, has revealed that Jordan sold its national products to 64 countries during 1987 and that the total revenues from those products in that year amounted to JD 248.8 million.

The study shows that Jordan sold products to Arab countries,

the European Community, Eastern Europe, North and South America, Asian nations as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Dajani noted in his study that Jordanian exporters enjoy good financial credit facilities and exemptions on income tax up to 10 per cent on sold products.

In his study, Dajani referred to the August 1988 measures issued

by the government, describing them as incentives to stimulate exports.

These measures, he said, have created an incentive to set up companies specialising in exporting Jordanian products and paved the way for new facilities to import semi-finished and primary materials for reexport.

Jordan buys Syrian fruits

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has drawn up contracts with Syrian exporters of agricultural products to sell Jordan fruits worth JD 2 million, according to Ali Dajani, director-general of the Jordan Agriculture Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO).

The report said that under the initial agreement, Jordan is to import apples, apricots, dried figs, raisins and cherries.

It said that by providing this consignment of fruits, Syria will have settled its dues to JAMPCO. According to the paper, Jordan will soon reach a barter agreement with Syria concerning agricultural products which will take effect as of the coming year.

U.S. jobless rate falls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. unemployment rate dipped in March to a 16-year low of five per cent despite a slower rate in the creation of jobs, the government reported Friday. The Labour Department said 189,000 new jobs were added to non-farm payrolls last month, the lowest figure since 154,000 in August 1988 and down from a revised February figure of 200,000. The slower rate of job creation, affected somewhat by the Eastern Airlines strike, indicates some slowing in the economy. But there were signs of continued strength as well. The number of factory jobs remained stable and the average factory work week fell slightly, by 0.2 hours to 40.9 hours. Average overtime was unchanged at 3.9 hours.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, April 8, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	84.5	85.5
U.S. dollar	38.0	38.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.8	409.1
Rund Sterling	910.3	919.8	Dutch guilder	254.0	258.0
Deutschemark	286.2	289.1	Swedish crown	24.0	24.7
Swiss franc	325.5	328.9	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	136.8	137.9

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, April 1, '89 and ending Wednesday April 5, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	26935	43055	1.600	1.600	1.000
Petra Bank	500	1250	2.550	2.550	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	5900	11955	2.000	2.050	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2614	3674	1.430	1.400	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	21940	28058	1.290	1.300	1.000
Housing Bank	2445	4616	1.870	1.900	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	20	600	31.000	30.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1422	21916	15.300	15.450	10.000
Arab Bank	560	82223	147.000	147.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	28431	71001	2.480	2.510	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	34631	74054	2.410	2.350	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	3471	3129	0.900	0.890	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	1900	1934	1.030	1.000	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	400	811	1.900	2.150	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	7332	23640	3.330	3.160	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	700	749	1.060	1.070	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	254	297	1.230	1.170	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahlia Insurance	1214	1534	1.280	1.280	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imra for Investment and Financial Facilities	1806	1308	0.720	0.740	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	13510	10224	0.780	0.740	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	81415	54909	0.660	0.670	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	17250	6290	0.380	0.360	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	64950	12021	0.690	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	6400	1733	0.770	0.770	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	9549	14284	1.500	1.480	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	291977	287838	0.930	1.010	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	400	239	0.680	0.530	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	20800	22298	1.070	1.060	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	13730	7023	0.520	0.500	1.000
Jordan Dairy	4270	4099	0.960	0.960	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	26074	79412	2.980	3.010	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	142615	247355	1.740	1.720	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	256	905	3.510	3.560	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	12508	20174	1.640	1.600	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	3063	14050	4.650	4.640	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladina Industries	5150	9164	1.880	1.870	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	11000	20801	1.940	1.890	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	8600	16669	1.950	1.940	1.000
Chemical Industries	17150	39597	2.250	2.360	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	4500	3105	0.700	0.690	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	5038	11644	2.340	2.310	1.000
National Steel Industries	74832	211740	2.780	2.880	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	31404	99980	3.140	3.150	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4538	35279	7.800	7.700	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	20050	4336	0.230	0.220	1.000
National Industries	8763	8500	0.970	0.970	1.000
Arab Paper Covering and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	963	519	0.540	0.540	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	53785	111859	2.090	2.140	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	3582	6267	1.740	1.750	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	44900	45686	1.000	0.990	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	700	655	1.000	0.900	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	57080	57251	1.040	1.000	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	190338	342584	1.720	1.820	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	121080	135322	1.070	1.120	1.000
Jordan Spinning Chemicals	62908	163172	2.740	2.570	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	63884	70623	1.130	1.080	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	11500	11518	1.000	1.000	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	265906	190670	0.750	0.690	1.000
Grand total	1,918,733	2,956,459			

Banking is booming in Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Despite a threat from the European Community (EC) to its cherished tax breaks, Luxembourg's banking centre is booming.

While other financial centres are still firing people following the October 1987 stock market crash, Luxembourg banks can't hire staff fast enough.

Banks and investment funds are queuing for permission to set up in the grand duchy. According to Pierre Jaans, head of the monetary authority, the Institut Monetaire Luxembourgeois, about 10 more foreign banks are set to join around 140 already here.

"The financial centre is still growing. The number of banks is increasing, buildings are going up and we are hiring new people. Compared to other financial centres this is quite surprising," said Damien Wigny, a director of Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgisee.

No one here welcomed proposals in February by the EC's executive commission to crack down on tax evasion and stop Luxembourg acting as a haven in the centre of the Community's barrier-free internal market after 1992.

But government leaders are now confident that they can block the proposals, or at least extract the sting from them.

And many optimists say the financial sector in Luxembourg, which accounts directly or indirectly for up to 20 per cent of economic activity, is now mature enough in any case to survive on expertise and innovation rather than tax benefits.

"We realise the future of the financial centre cannot be based on special fiscal treatment. What we must do is give service in a more and more sophisticated environment," Wigny said.

The EC's smallest state, Luxembourg used to be heavily dependent on only one industry,

steel. But in the past 30 years it has turned itself into a mini-Switzerland in banking.

The centre of the capital, in living memory just a village, is dominated by the high-rise, glass-fronted buildings which are now springing up across the city.

The magnets of strict banking secrecy and no withholding taxes for non-residents on the income from their investments have attracted armies of small investors to Luxembourg seeking to avoid taxes.

For years Belgium, which shares the same currency as Luxembourg, has had to tolerate thousands of the legendary "Belgian dentists" putting their funds in the grand duchy.

This year, West German and Dutch investors have switched their money here to avoid new national tax measures.

And an EC agreement to start lifting the remaining exchange controls in the Community from the middle of next year has made France especially worried that its citizens will sneak across the border to put their money in Luxembourg banks.

So, in a two-pronged attack, the European Commission has proposed greater cooperation between tax authorities and a withholding tax, or tax at source, of at least 15 per cent throughout the EC on most forms of investment income.

But all tax matters must be

approved unanimously and Luxembourg, with some support from Britain, has already said it will veto the proposed withholding tax.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer also moved in late March to ward off any EC attack on banking secrecy by rushing through a decree confirming it is illegal for banks to give information on their clients to tax authorities.

"We believe that banking secrecy is just as important as for example the secrecy in the medical field," explained stock exchange chairman Edmond

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Injured Maradona to miss AC Milan

NAPLES (R) — Diego Maradona of Napoli has been ruled out of Sunday's vital Italian League match at defending champions AC Milan with a thigh strain. The Argentine star, who interrupted a three-week injury break Wednesday to boost Napoli to a 2-0 UEFA Cup semifinal first leg victory against Bayern Munich, failed to leave Naples with the squad on Saturday. "Maradona's muscle is still strained and causing pain. The player will resume gradual training from Monday," club doctor Emilio Accampora said. Maradona's absence is a major blow to Napoli's chances against AC Milan, who underlined their top form with a 1-1 draw at Real Madrid in Wednesday's European Cup semifinal first leg.

Top seeds rise effortlessly

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — Top seeds Chen Longcan and Wei Qingguang continued their untroubled run towards a second world doubles table tennis title with a swift win over Czechoslovak qualifiers Tomas Janci and Miroslav Cecava on Saturday. The Chinese pair, who are also Olympic champions, have not dropped a game in the competition. They beat the Czechoslovaks in the quarter-finals. They now meet Joerg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner, who gave hosts West Germany their best-ever showing in the men's doubles with a defeat of Polc Andrzej Grubba and Frenchman Jean-Philippe Gatien. The victory was sweet revenge for the 19-year-old Rosskopf, who was knocked out of the singles by Grubba on Friday in four games. The crowd whistled and cheered when first Fetzner, in the opening game, and then Rosskopf in the decider were penalised a point for holding their rackets below the table as they served.

Frenchwoman approaching West Coast

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Frenchwoman Anne Liardet headed for San Francisco on Friday, short of the speed record for sailing around Cape Horn from New York but within striking distance of another record she will never lose. Liardet, in her 50-foot (15-metre) trimaran Finistère Bretagne, is the first woman to try for the record over the grueling 14,500-mile (23,300-kilometre) passage from New York harbour — the famous clipper route of the 1800s. Warren Luhrs, sailing Thursday's Child, set the new record on Feb. 12 by covering the distance in 80 days, 20 hours, smashing the 135-year record of 89 days, 12 hours established by the American clipper ship Flying Cloud. Attempts to break that record were generated by the Manhattan Yacht Club's trophy offer.

S. Korean champ crashes out

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — Yoo Nam-Kyu's dreams of adding the world table tennis crown to his Olympic title were

brought to an abrupt halt by China's Xu Xingcai on Saturday. Xu, ranked 25th in the world, beat the South Korean 17-21 in the fourth round to reach a quarter-final tie with Swede Jorgen Persson later on Saturday. Left-handed penholder Yoo, the 1986 Asian champion, looked a shadow of the man who delighted the crowds in Seoul with his Olympic victory. He moved ahead only once in the final game, for 19-18. But Xu, Wu drew level and, with a yell of triumph, clinched victory on his first match point. With Yoo gone, only defending champion Jiang Jialiang of China and Swede Jan-Ove Waldner, the 1987 runner-up, remained from the top four seeds. Waldner had an easy fourth round win over Japanese champion Kiyoshi Saitoh, setting up a quarter-final against Hungarian veteran Tibor Klampar.

Borg to play final match in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Five-times Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg said Friday his exhibition match against American former arch-rival John McEnroe next week would be his last public tennis appearance. "This will be my last exhibition match," the 32-year-old Swede said. "I've been practising for two hours every day since the beginning of January this year and I'm in very, very good shape." The match in Hiroshima April 15 is the last in a four-game exhibition series which has been played in Singapore, Manila and Taipei. Borg, who lost to McEnroe in the 1981 Wimbledon final, has made only infrequent appearances in exhibition matches since he retired from tournament tennis in 1983. He said he planned to devote himself in future to his sports business and to helping young people improve their tennis skills.

Sternmark gives farewell party

SALEN, Sweden (AP) — As news conferences go, the one staged Friday at his mother's ski area did not yield much information. The big news already was well known: Ingemar Sternmark was here for a final tribute from his countrymen.

Swedes throughout the country lived and died with Sternmark during a remarkable 16-year career of World Cup ski racing, and that is perhaps his greatest legacy. He converted a nation of cross-country skiers into devotees of Alpine racing, then gave them 16 years of thrills.

Now, after 270 races and an unprecedented 86 victories, one of the ski areas that thrived under the Swedish passion for Alpine racing opened its doors for a weekend celebration dubbed the "Ingemar races."

Sweden is not alone in hailing skiing's greatest winner, as shown by the luminaries who joined Sternmark for the news conference.

On hand were 21 other World Cup racers, including former World Cup overall champions Gustavo Thoenen and Piero Gros.

of Italy and Andreas Wenzel of Liechtenstein. Olympic double gold medalist Alberto Tomba of Italy and Austria's Rudi Nierlich, winner of two gold medals in the recent world alpine ski championships at Vail, Colorado.

All told, the group accounted for 104 World Cup victories and 26 Olympic and world championships medals. Add Sternmark's victory total and they represented more than a quarter of all the races won since the World Cup was organized 23 years ago.

Sternmark, always taciturn, seemed somewhat ill at ease over all the donations, allowing that it was "a little embarrassing" to hear all the other racers say such nice things about him.

Wenzel volunteered that he had once found a weak spot in Sternmark's makeup.

The press conference was a multi-layered affair, with remarks translated into Swedish, German, Italian and English for the estimated 160 journalists. The racers filled the dead time with some horseplay, inevitably led by the jolly Italians.

Lawmakers to battle it out on the courts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers from Britain and the United States pronounced themselves fit and ready for a charity tennis contest May 19 at which organisers said President George Bush may put in an appearance.

"You'll see tennis played like never before," Sen. John Breaux said at a news conference here. "We are a mean, lean and fit machine."

"We will show no mercy once we're on the courts," John Hanman, a conservative member of the House of Commons from Exeter, said through a telephone hookup from London. "We've been training here in the shadows of Wimbledon."

"I hope the Anglo-U.S. relationship will survive this ordeal," said Richard Ralph, a representative of the British embassy.

They play will be held in connection with the Dow World senior open for players over 45, scheduled for May 15 to 21 at Congressional Country Club in suburban Washington.

Breaux, the captain of the U.S. team, said members tentatively scheduled to play include senate majority leader George Mitchell; Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, the 1988 Democratic vice presidential nominee; Rep. Stephen Solarz; Rep. Byron L. Dorgan, and Sen. Timothy Wirth.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 9

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There may be no dull moments during this interesting and romantic day. Expect an increase in social contacts and romantic possibilities. Feelings can start out of bounds when love enters the picture.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You get pleasure from siblings whose behavior is magnetic and outlandish. Streamline the family fun and play the young member's request.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Patience is required when the day's game plan turns into more waiting than doing. Surprises will change the mood of the day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You prefer to be in motion. A short trip to a clever spot will please someone special. Spring fever can get you into a romantic mood.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Contact a friend who has been absent for too long. Insecure feelings have no firm foundation unless you give them that power.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): You ponder over a sense of direction, purpose and accomplishment. Search your numerous talents for a creative avenue.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21): Emphasis is on home activities, springtime cleanup, refurbishing and reconditioning. A fresh approach has you feeling good.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21): You may feel tied down to a boring routine and yearn for adventure.

Remember that little things can mean a lot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21): You may have to choose between the lesser of two evils. Your good taste is reflected in a special gift. Chase away your busy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You rebel against restrictions, preferring an independent and varying style. You are asked to join others socially.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): A former in-law asks that you keep a friendship intact. Life with your special loved one takes on new and wonderful dimensions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): You are at ease and prepared to socialize. Keep financial records in order and spend within limits. Plan a brief vacation.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Set your priorities early in the day. Consult with experts on how to get started on a pet project. A current creative period lasts several weeks.

If Your Child Is Born Today: He or she will be intellectual and able to analyze and assimilate vast amounts of information. Your progeny will need to be taught to concentrate, to make firm commitments, and to avoid scattering his or her energy into too many activities.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Davis Cup quarterfinals: USA 2, France 0

Agassi struggles, beats Leconte

SAN DIEGO (R) — Regaining control after a third set lapse, Andre Agassi beat Henri Leconte to give the United States a commanding 2-0 lead over France in their Davis Cup world group quarterfinal tie on Friday.

Earlier John McEnroe, at the height of his craft, crushed Yannick Noah in the opening match of the tie.

Leading comfortably 5-2 in the third set, Agassi wasted four match point chances and lost five consecutive games and the set.

But after the 10-minute intermission between the third and fourth sets he quickly regained control of the match with his groundstroke winners.

"I came out for the fourth set with the attitude that I would rather be up 2-1 in sets than 2-1 down and came out determined to make the guy work for every point," Agassi said after winning on his sixth match point when Leconte missed a backhand.

The U.S. goes for an unbeatable 3-0 lead on Saturday with their unbeaten cup doubles team of Ken Flach and Robert Seguso facing Leconte and Noah.

In another quarter-final tie, Horst Skoff beat Mats Wilander in five sets lasting over six hours

as Australia gained a 1-1 first day tie with former champions Sweden.

Holders West Germany were level at 1-1 with Czechoslovakia while Yugoslavia led Spain 2-0.

Agassi was cruising against Leconte, playing what he called his best tennis ever before losing his grip from 5-2 ahead in the third set.

Agassi pointed to his opponent's sudden outburst of brilliant shotmaking as the factor that shook his stranglehold on the match.

Leconte said later: "I was trying to come in often to the net and take some risks."

Agassi had, however, opened the way for Leconte with a careless error on his first match point at 5-2. Hoping to end with an ace, Agassi tried two hard serves but double-faulted and went on to lose his serve.

Two games later, serving at 5-4, Agassi had a 40-0 and triple match point. Leconte responded

by saving the first with a backhand winner, forcing an Agassi error on the second and then hitting a volley winner on the last.

"All you can do is applaud him when he hits shots like that," Agassi said.

With his confidence flying, Leconte won the next two points to break serve for 5-5. Two games later Leconte broke again for the set 7-5.

McEnroe's masterpiece lasted one hour and 55 minutes and evoked comparisons with his form during his reign as the world number one in 1981-84.

"It was very satisfying," McEnroe said. "I don't need to convince myself any further that I can play well against anybody."

"I did what you like to do to any player and that is confuse him and make him not sure what to do," said McEnroe, whose Davis Cup singles won-lost record of 38-7 is his country's best.

Said Noah: "I just had my butt kicked. What can I say, I felt like I was just there to make him look good."

After a slow and nervous opening, McEnroe caught fire in the eighth game of the first set and never throughout the rest of the rout did the flame flicker.

"Once I got that service break in the eighth game, everything clicked in, everything went well," McEnroe said.

He dominated every aspect. He served 10 aces, Noah had three. Noah also committed five double faults. McEnroe broke serve five times. Noah managed to win just 14 points off McEnroe's serve and never had a break point.

Noah best moment was in the opening game, when he attacked McEnroe's serve in the first game and forcing two deuces.

The winning team plays a semi-final from July 21-23 against the winner of the Czechoslovakia-West Germany tie.

Becker triumphant

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Boris Becker served 22 aces to beat Karel Novacek 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-4 and give defending champion West Germany a 1-0 lead over Czechoslovakia in their Davis Cup world group quarterfinal tie Friday.

The only time Becker was in trouble came in the second set. But he rallied from a 0-3 deficit with his powerful serves and took full control of the match to win in two hours and 35 minutes.

Arsenal reclaims top slot

LONDON (R) — Arsenal wrestled the leadership of the English First Division back from Liverpool Saturday, responding to the formidable challenge of the all-conquering title-holders with a 2-0 win over Everton.

Liverpool toppled Arsenal from the top spot for the first time in 1989 when they trounced Sheffield Wednesday 5-1 in a match brought forward to avoid a clash with the Grand National horse race at nearby Aintree.

Liverpool, timing their championship charge to perfection, moved ahead on goal difference after their eighth successive league victory but held the distinction for just 3½ hours.

Full-back Lee Dixon netted his first goal for Arsenal four minutes into the Londoners' home match at Highbury and towering

Irish striker Niall Quinn, replacing the injured Alan Smith, justified his selection by scoring the clincher 25 minutes from time.

Arsenal ended the day with 63 points from 32 matches, three points ahead of Liverpool who have a game in hand.

Norwich, surprise leaders earlier in the season, slumped to their third defeat in eight days when they were beaten 2-1 at Coventry and have now virtually dropped out of title contention, trailing Arsenal by seven points.

England international Peter Beardsley orchestrated Liverpool's rout of Sheffield Wednesday, scoring twice and creating another goal.

Steve McMahon set Liverpool on the way after eight minutes and Beardsley added the second three minutes before the interval

when he slotted home through a crowded goalmouth after England colleague John Barnes had taken the defence apart.

Beardsley created space for Irish international Ray Houghton to drive in the third 13 minutes into the second half and then claimed his second with snap shot from the edge of the area in the 66th minute.

Dean Barrick pulled back a goal for Wednesday two minutes later but Barnes completed the rout 10 minutes from the end after Houghton and Beardsley had set up the chance.

While Arsenal and Liverpool turned the title chase into a two-team race, Norwich ended the day on a wretched note, with goalkeeper Bryan Gunn sent off by referee David Elleray in the last minute.

Gunn protested too vehemently against the award of a penalty to Coventry after he was judged to have brought down striker

David Speedie.

Defender Mark Bowen took over in goal but did not have to make a save as Coventry captain Brian Kilcline blasted his spot kick off target.

Norwich, beaten by Liverpool last Saturday and by Nottingham Forest Wednesday, took the lead at Coventry through Robert Fleck in the 13th minute but David Phillips and Speedie struck in the 23rd and 67th minutes for Coventry.

Arsenal had to work hard for their victory over Everton after Dixon had driven in the early opener when goalkeeper Neville Southall punched out Brian Marwood's corner.

Quinn, in the starting line-up for the first time this season, sealed victory in the 65th minute, turning in a header from substitute Paul Merson to steady Arsenal's nerves after Everton had threatened an equaliser.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 6
♥ Q 10 8
♦ J 6 2
♣ J 9 7 5

EAST
♠ 7 5 4 3 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ A K 9 7 4
♣ 10 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q
♥ A K J 9 2
♦ Q 3
♣ K 10 8 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Many of our favorite bridge players know how to enjoy a good meal. Perhaps their spouses will enjoy reading some good hands while preparing some of the recipes that appear in D.J. Cook's *Cook & Deal II* (226 pp., hard cover, spiral bound \$15.95 plus \$2 postage from the author, P.O. Box 3238, Beach St., Vero Beach, Fla. 32964). It combines some excellent recipes with 52 bridge hands of more than passing interest. This hand is typical.

South's jump to four hearts is a little aggressive. With two queens of

doubtful value, a game try of three clubs might have been more advisable.

After West's lead of the diamond king, declarer can see two sure losers in diamonds and one in clubs. In addition, there is the danger of a second club loser if declarer mis-guesses the suit. However, a dash of deception could eliminate all snafus.

Under the king of diamonds declarer should sacrifice his queen. That puts West under a lot of pressure. From his point of view, the ace of diamonds could get ruffed, setting up the jack for a critical discard.

But any switch by West presents declarer with his contract. If West shifts to a club, East can win and return a diamond, but now declarer gets two club discards—one on the jack of diamonds and the other on a spade. And if West shifts to a spade, declarer wins, draws trump and takes a diamond discard on the third spade.

The only defense to give declarer a chance to go wrong is for West to cash his top diamonds, then exit in any suit save clubs. But after South's moral at trick one, we admit that we wouldn't have found that defense.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I think Stanley's having a mid-life crisis. Last night he called Disney World and begged Minnie Mouse to marry him."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NIMEC

LARAT

UPTYDE

ROOMAN

WHEN THE NEW FAVORITE ARRIVED AT THE ZOO, THERE WAS THIS AMONG THE KIDS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "_____" (Answer tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: ACUTE MAIZE ZINNA STURDY
Answer: The favorite fish at that old Russian court—"CZAR-DINES"

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Urgent 5-party talks under way on Namibia

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — Officials from five nations flew to a remote Namibian safari lodge Saturday in a bid to halt fighting between Namibian nationalist fighters and South African-led security forces and save the territory's U.N.-backed peace plan.

Delegations from Cuba, Angola and South Africa, architects of the founding Namibian accord, aim to heal the rift caused by an incursion of an estimated 1,900 fighters of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

The clashes, which erupted last Saturday, have cost almost 300 lives, derailed the peace process and cast doubt on the prospects for Namibian independence.

All sides have expressed willingness to resurrect the peace accord but officials would not predict the outcome of the talks, scheduled to last at least until Sunday.

"They all talk about give and take, but it depends who does the giving and who does the taking," one U.N. official remarked be-

fore the delegations sat down for the talks.

Observing the meeting at the Mount Etjo safari lodge, 200 kilometres northwest of Windhoek, are the U.S. State Department's southern Africa expert Chester Crocker and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin.

Crocker and Adamishin arrived after talks in Luanda Friday with Angolan, SWAPO and U.N. officials, which mooted agreeing to SWAPO's demands to establish U.N.-monitored bases within Namibia.

Meanwhile, battles between the South African-led security forces and SWAPO fighters continued into an eighth straight day, police said.

South Africa called on the

fighters to surrender by midday Saturday or face intensified security-force action, but there was no indication that SWAPO planned to lay down arms as the deadline passed, police Chief Inspector Derek Brune said.

The South African-installed administrator of the territory, Louis Pienaar, said Friday there was a "de facto suspension" of the U.N. independence plan because of the widespread fighting near Namibia's northern border with Angola. He said elections planned for November could be affected by the conflict.

Pik Botha, South Africa's foreign minister, said he had informed U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar about a South African decision to activate an unspecified number of additional soldiers. A major reason for the move, Botha said, was that SWAPO fighters were approaching areas where white farmers lived.

The U.N. has allowed South Africa to move a limited number



Journalists look at the bodies of 22 SWAPO fighters killed and left in a field during this week's clashes in Namibia.

of troops from their bases to support police units, but Botha said Friday that the security forces "at the present level are not able to stem the incursion."

Botha said South Africa remained committed to implementing independence in Namibia and that the U.N. plan had not been formally suspended.

The U.N. Security Council said Friday it was satisfied that South Africa still sought to grant independence to the territory it has ruled since World War I.

Soviet sub sinks; Moscow says no danger of radiation

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Saturday there was no radiation danger from a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine which sank off northern Norway but officials refused to say whether there were nuclear missiles on board.

The Soviet news agency TASS confirmed there had been deaths among the crew when the submarine sank Friday evening, some six hours after a fire broke out on board.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in a message to Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, said the reactor on board the submarine had been shut down and there was no danger of radiation leakage.

Western naval experts described the submarine as a Mike class vessel which could carry cruise and anti-submarine mis-

siles. Norwegian authorities said up to 12 crew members were killed in the accident.

The TASS report described the vessel as a "nuclear-powered torpedo submarine" but did not give its class or say whether it was actually carrying nuclear weapons.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gromitskykh, said the brief TASS report included all the information provided on the incident by Soviet military officials.

"Western sources say it is the Mike class, I cannot say," Gromitskykh said.

TASS said the submarine sank in 1,500 metres of water at 5.15 p.m. in international waters about 180 kilometres southwest of Bear Island.

"The crew is being rescued by Soviet vessels in the area. There

has been loss of life," the report said. It did not say how many people died.

"Specialists ruled out the possibility of a radioactive contamination of the environment," TASS said.

It said a government commission had been set up to examine the cause of the accident.

A large part of Soviet naval strength lies in its submarine force, which is the world's largest.

According to Western estimates, the force numbers over 300 active units. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) says 75 of the vessels are nuclear-armed strategic submarines.

The rest are conventionally-armed and nuclear or diesel-powered.



Prosper Avril

Fighting erupts in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Heavy artillery fire erupted Friday night near the national palace and an adjacent army barracks where rebel soldiers were demanding the ouster of Haitian leader Lieutenant General Prosper Avril.

Avril foiled a coup attempt Sunday but has been unable to quell the mutiny.

It appeared Avril's presidential guard had surrounded the rebels' Dessalines barracks, but it could not immediately be determined whether an attack had been launched by either side.

One armoured car roared into the Champ-de-Mars Plaza outside the palace at 7:40 p.m. (2340 GMT) firing its cannon. Repeated volleys of cannon, machinegun and howitzer fire rang out from the area immediately in front of the barracks and continued more than an hour later.

Reporters watching from a second-floor balcony of the Holiday Inn a few blocks away periodically dived for cover as explosions reverberated through the hotel and tracer bullets zipped overhead.

It was impossible to immediately determine the significance of the shooting. State-run radio played French romantic songs in the midst of the explosions.

At around 10 p.m. (0200 GMT), an uniformed Dessalines soldier appeared at the Holiday Inn and told a reporter that there were many casualties in the barracks. There was no way to independently confirm the report.

A woman who lives near the barracks said a large hole had been blown in the building.

Telephone lines were jammed at the U.S. embassy. A Western European diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity said the presidential guard "has attacked the Dessalines barracks."

A man who answered the telephone inside the palace and identified himself only as a civil servant said, "There is a military operation between the Dessalines barracks and the presidential guard."

Asked which side was in control, he laughed and said: "The government is in control of the situation."

A woman who lives in a house next to the barracks said by telephone that she could see two armoured cars in the street with their cannon aimed at the barracks.

The 1,000-man presidential guard has five armoured cars equipped with small cannon similar to large-caliber machineguns.

The white, neo-classical palace and the mustard-coloured Dessalines barracks are close to each other, surrounded by the same wall.

Alaska storm adds to oil spill woes

VALDEZ (AP) — Forecasts of shifting wind and high tides this weekend raised fears that millions of litres of oil from the Exxon Valdez might be blown back into the fragile fjords of Alaska's central coast.

As the cleanup entered its third week Saturday, Alaska state officials said they had worked out an agreement between Exxon and the U.S. coast guard by modifying their request for a complete coast guard takeover.

Exxon will handle contracts and purchases and the coast guard will direct field activity, said Dennis Kelso, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Interviewed late Friday, Rear Admiral Edward Nelson, the coast guard's top official in Alaska, said he would use some military personnel in liaison and staff positions, but "we're not going to bring in a lot of troops, certainly not now."

Nelson also said the command of the cleanup has been better organised. "I never felt they (Exxon) were unresponsive or irresponsible."

Nelson said. "I think we had the problem with organisation. That's what frustrated everybody. We now see a clean line of what's going to go on."

So far, only an estimated 16,000 barrels — about seven per cent of the 38.2 million litres that spilled when the tanker hit a reef — has been sopped and vacuumed up from the once clear water of Prince William Sound.

By Friday, the crude oil had floated over a 7,770-square-kilometre area.

The spill has killed thousands of birds and sea otters along the central Alaskan coast and fishermen have lost millions of dollars.

Friday he directed Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to make military forces and equipment available and Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner to coordinate the federal effort.

Bush had been under pressure from members of Congress and Alaska officials to intervene. Alaska Governor Steve Cowper Wednesday asked the coast guard to take over management of the cleanup from Exxon.

Nurses suspected of killing 35 patients

VIENNA (R) — At least three nurses in one of Vienna's oldest hospitals have been arrested on suspicion of killing up to 35 patients with drug overdoses.

"We have not finished our investigations and it is possible that more arrests will be made," Vienna police chief Guenther Boegl said in a radio interview Saturday.

"We are working on the assumption that as many as 35 patients could have been killed by overdoses of medicines over many months," he added.

The conservative daily Die Presse said it was "the biggest mass killing in Austria's criminal history."

Boegl said the three women nurses, aged between 26 and 30, who worked in the Lainz Hospital on the western outskirts of Vienna, had admitted killing a number of patients with lethal injections including insulin, normally used to treat diabetes.

They were arrested Friday after police were called in to investigate an unusually high percentage of deaths in one part of the hospital by the department's head, Franz Pesendorfer.

Boegl said the three had admitted administering overdoses of drugs to terminally ill elderly patients in great pain.

"It appears they acted out of a misguided sense of mercy, but we are also investigating other possible motives," he said, adding: "Not all the patients were terminally ill."

He would not comment on whether the deaths were mercy-killing or murder to lessen the nurses' workloads.

Some of the victims might have been killed by "other means," he said without specifying, but added that so far police had no evidence of direct physical violence.

Alois Stacher, the Vienna city councillor responsible for the hospital, said Pesendorfer had sought police assistance when one elderly patient, a woman, was found to be suffering from an apparent insulin coma.

"This patient's life was saved," Stacher said. "But then other medically unclear cases of deaths were recalled of patients under the care of the nurses now under arrest and the police were called in."

Woman wins lottery in court

LOS ANGELES (R) — A California woman beat the state lottery for \$3 million Tuesday — in court. A state court jury awarded Doris Barnett, 54, the \$3-million prize she had claimed from the lottery's weekly Big Spin contest and a bonus of \$400,000 in damages. Barnett spun a giant lottery wheel Dec. 30, 1985. Her ball landed in the \$3-million slot and master of ceremonies Jeff Edwards exclaimed: "You're another \$3-million winner." But seconds later the ball popped out and nestled in the \$10,000 slot. Barnett was awarded the smaller prize, but she refused to cash the \$10,000 check and sued the State Lottery.

Doctor says sex O.K.

BERNE (R) — People with heart disease do not have to give up sex, a study published by the Swiss cardiology foundation Tuesday said. The report, written by West German heart specialist Carola Halhuber, said Swiss and American surveys showed a third of men and women suffering heart attacks gave up sex but their fears were unjustified. "Anyone who can still climb the stairs normally or walk round the block need have no worries about resuming the sexual activity he or she had before a heart attack."

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MM	MAX	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	41	10 Clear
ATHENS	19	48	25 77 Clear
BAHRAIN	18	64	25 77 Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	37 99 Clear
Buenos Aires	19	66	27 81 Clear
CAIRO	17	63	30 98 Clear
CHICAGO	01	34	08 48 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	04	39	06 48 Clear
FRANKFURT	03	37	12 54 Cloudy
GENEVA	06	41	15 58 Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	68	21 70 Rain
ISTANBUL	11	52	24 75 Clear
LONDON	04	39	13 55 Clear
LOS ANGELES	19	67	28 109 Cloudy
MADRID	04	38	14 57 Rain
MECCA	22	76	36 97 Cloudy
MIAMI	19	66	28 82 Cloudy
MONTREAL	03	37	07 45 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	36	06 48 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	18	65	24 84 Clear
NEW YORK	04	39	13 55 Cloudy
PARIS	06	43	15 58 Clear
ROME	08	46	19 66 Cloudy
TOKYO	11	52	15 59 Rain
VIENNA	04	39	18 64 Clear

Canadian police redfaced after bizarre bus hijack

OTTAWA (R) — Embarrassed police were trying to find out Saturday how they lost a hijacked bus which wound up on the lawns of the Canadian parliament during an eight-hour hostage drama.

The bus had just left Montreal for New York Friday when it was hijacked by Charles Yacoub, 38, a Lebanese immigrant living in Montreal who was seeking to dramatise the demands of a group of Lebanese prisoners allegedly held in Syria.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) spokesman Gilles Favreau said authorities believed the Greyhound bus was heading south and thus alerted police in Quebec and New York state.

Instead, the bus headed west to Ottawa 200 kilometres away and police did not know where it was until it rolled up on the lawns of the Canadian parliament about three hours later.

"You've got to realise that this bus was going to New York," Favreau said. He quickly added:

"Obviously, we're going to have to find out how come we didn't know that he was coming in this direction."

In a note to police, Yacoub said he was a member of the "Lebanese Christian Liberation Front" and hijacked the bus to highlight a demand for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon and the release of Lebanese prisoners allegedly held in Syria.

The RCMP said Yacoub came to Canada from Lebanon in 1976, but the group he claimed to belong to did not exist.

The hijacking began shortly before noon when Yacoub, armed with a revolver, seized control of the bus soon after it left Montreal.

At a toll booth of the Champlain Bridge, which crosses the St. Lawrence River, Yacoub told an elderly man to get off, then ordered the bus to head to Ottawa.

Yacoub tried to have the bus drive around the grounds of the Canadian parliament, but police forced it to drive onto a lawn, where its tyres got stuck in wet grass.

Police cars and sharpshooters ringed the bus and began negotiating with Yacoub.

In the next five hours, Yacoub released five hostages, one or two at a time.

Forty employees of the U.S. embassy, across the street from parliament, fled by dismantling a window in the building next door and crawling out.

Finally, Yacoub freed the remaining five hostages and surrendered. Police said he was to be charged Saturday.

Favreau said Yacoub had a minor criminal record but no history of mental illness. Asked why Yacoub had decided to give up, he said: "He obviously came to the conclusion he was not accomplishing anything."

Anti-Roh riots hit campuses

SEOUL (AP) — Students calling for the ouster of President Roh Tae-Woo burned him in effigy and battled riot police with firebombs and rocks Friday outside four campuses in Seoul.

Shouting "topple the Roh Tae-Woo regime," about 2,500 students rallied at Sungshil, Sungkyunkwan, Sejong and Sogang Universities and pelted riot police with hundreds of firebombs in swirling clashes outside the campuses.

Witnesses reported seeing several people injured, but there were no official reports of injuries or arrests.

Hundreds of riot police firing

tear gas moved at one time onto Sungkyunkwan near downtown Seoul to disperse about 700 students.

In southern Seoul, firebombs slipped into a store in front of Sungshil University during clashes between about 1,000 students and riot police.

The demonstrators accused the government of suppressing the labour movement, and supported dissident leader Moon Ik-Hwan, who made an unauthorised trip to North Korea last week for talks with North Korean President Kim Il Sung on reuniting the divided Korean peninsula.

"Overthrow the Roh regime."

which stifles workers' rights," the students shouted, referring to a recent police action called to put down a three-month-old strike at the Hyundai shipyard in the southeastern city of Ulsan.

Government officials have said Moon will be arrested when he returns. The dissident clergyman, now in Tokyo, said Friday he plans to return to Seoul next Thursday.

Dissidents and students are organising rallies to welcome Moon, but police said such rallies would be blocked.

Moon arrived in Tokyo Wednesday from Peking on his way home from a 10-day visit to Pyongyang.

ETA bombs rail targets

MADRID (R) — Basque guerrillas, who this week called off a truce in their 21-year campaign for a separate state, bombed railway targets in northern Spain Saturday, police said. No one was hurt.

Five bombs exploded in the region of Navarre, bordering the Basque country, at electricity generating stations along the main railway line between Madrid and France. Police defused three more bombs.

Rail traffic was halted as police searched the area for more bombs.

A telephone call claimed responsibility in the name of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom), which ended its three-month truce after accusing the

government of reneging on a pledge to negotiate a political settlement.

It was the first attack claimed by ETA since it declared the truce Jan. 8 while holding secret talks with Spanish government envoys in Algiers.

Police said the bombs, planted along the railway line between Pamplona and the town of Alsua, contained between four and eight kilograms of amonol, an explosive ETA has used in previous attacks.

Among ETA's demands is the incorporation of Navarre into the Basque country.

Police meanwhile were still investigating a parcel-bomb attack Friday in the Basque town of Irun which seriously wounded a young

teacher. It was unclear if ETA carried out the attack.

In a statement Thursday, ETA said it was willing to resume the talks but declared "all battlefronts open." The statement followed a call by the Algerian government for both sides to begin a new round of contacts.

But Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said talks would definitely be over if ETA carried out an attack.

There had been no casualties from political violence in the Basque region since a policeman was killed last December. There had been no attacks since ETA declared its truce.

ETA has killed more than 600 people in its campaign for a separate Basque state.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Effensohn

DIVERSIONS

By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS
1 "I am" canners
2 Hammingway
3 Basket or winner
4 Troubadour love song
5 Ovarium
6 Moss
7 Entrance
8 Pic. sweetheart?
9 Washington vehicle?
10 Psychiatric experiences
11 Decies brought the Statue of Liberty
12 Gr. letter
13 Despoils
14 One's number
15 Rico
16 Pi—abbr.
17 Black cuckoo
18 Count of music
19 Knicker
20 God of love
21 Fine
22 Genetic letters
23 "Fidoles"
24 Affection
25 Wild hog
26 "Rule Britannia!"
27 composer
28 Discoverer
29 Therefore, Fr.
30 Daughter of Tantalus

DOWN
1 Lincoln
2 Chapin
3 One's number
4 Rico
5 Pi—abbr.
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7 Count of music
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1 Edge of a roof
2 One's number
3 Batty one
4 Destroy
5 altogether
6 Punctuation mark
7 Mr. Shultz for 45D
17 Food
18 Cruel person
19 Fumble words
20 Ecol. org.

DOWN
1 Does wrong
2 Mimic
3 Decies for Garfield
4 Change
5 Angry
6 Capital of Bulgaria
7 TV's Johnny or Martin
8 Fate
9 — scale of 1 to 10
10 Kettle's kin

DOWN
11 Musical spen
12 Tagged object
13 You ain't — nothing yet!
14 Gape
15 Tightness
16 Explodes
20 Eye problem: ver.
25 Gives assent
26 Search
27 Hurries
28 In — (stuck)

DOWN
29 Galapagos islands country
30 Carry out
31 Entanglement
32 Image
33 Gape
34 Dunderhead
35 Assad's land
36 A person
37 Great review
38 Venturous
42 Milan money
45 40th US president
46 Tennis Stefan

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1 Lincoln
2 Chapin
3 One's number
4 Rico
5 Pi—abbr.
6 Black cuckoo
7 Count of music
8 Knicker
9 God of love
10 Fine
11 Genetic letters
12 "Fidoles"
13 Affection
14 Wild hog
15 "Rule Britannia!"
16 composer
17 Discoverer
18 Therefore, Fr.
19 Daughter of Tantalus

Diagramless
1 Edge of a roof
2 One's number
3 Batty one
4 Destroy
5 altogether
6 Punctuation mark
7 Mr. Shultz for 45D
17 Food
18 Cruel person
19 Fumble words
20 Ecol. org.

DOWN
1 Does wrong
2 Mimic
3 Decies for Garfield
4 Change
5 Angry
6 Capital of Bulgaria
7 TV's Johnny or Martin
8 Fate
9 — scale of 1 to 10
10 Kettle's kin

DOWN
11 Musical spen
12 Tagged object
13 You ain't — nothing yet!
14 Gape
15 Tightness
16 Explodes
20 Eye problem: ver.
25 Gives assent
26 Search
27 Hurries
28 In — (stuck)

DOWN
29 Galapagos islands country
30 Carry out
31 Entanglement
32 Image
33 Gape
34 Dunderhead
35 Assad's land
36 A person
37 Great review
38 Venturous
42 Milan money
45 40th US president
46 Tennis Stefan